■ SOCIETY

Fairy tales: unlocking happiness

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN



Charlotte Rougemont: the stories have memories. (Photo: dpa)

When Joachim fell asleep, he was not alone. He heard a voice that seemed to come from a long way off telling the tale of the girl gooseherd at the stream:

"The air was mild and warm and round about was a green meadow, full of primroses, wild thyme and thousands of other flowers."

"It's very nice her," said Joachim. "I'm so tired, I'd just like to . . ."

A nurse pushed him quietly into the operating theatre. And without regaining consciousness the child died.

That was 40 years ago, and even now Charlotte Rougemont thinks of little Joachim whenever she tells the tale of the gooseherd.

"There are memories and associations with every fairy tale I tell — serious and funny, sad and merry. Many of them, such as the tale of the gooseherd, are indelibly associated with someone who died a long time ago. Perhaps this comes across when I tell fairy tales, I don't know."

Charlotte Rougemont has a rare and enviable job: she is a fairy-tale teller. That is her profession, according to the Hamburg telephone directory.

And how does one become a fairy-tale teller? A difficult question which can only be answered vaguely. A deep love of fairy tales plays a part, and a love of the people, big and small, to whom she tells the tales. And perhaps more than anything else, a vocation.

Charlotte Rougemont, who is almost 79, worked for many years as a medical-technical assistant in a Hamburg hospital before she discovered her gift for telling fairy-tales.

She always had a volume of Grimm's fairy tales to hand as she cleaned test-tubes and stands.

The doctors and nurses did not mind, indeed they approved of this unscientific aspect of Charlotte's work.

Soon they were saying: "In that room a blood test, in that a stomach juice test, and in the other a fairy tale, otherwise we simply will not get on."

Charlotte knows and can tell over 120 fairy tales by heart. She says that fairy tales are vitamins for the soul.

She prefers folk fairy tales, especially those of the Brothers Grimm, who in her opinion had the gift of writing the way the tales were told.

There are few parents or grandparents today who have the time to tell their children fairy tales, to dream with them of the mysterious world of princes and princesses, witches and ghosts, dwarves, gnomes and giants.

She says: "If only more people today realised how happy you can make children by reading them or telling them a fairy tale." And this happiness is not short-lived.

Improbable though it may seem, Charlotte Rougement had to tell the tax man a fairy tale at the beginning of her career.

This was in the early fifties. She received a letter summoning her to the tax office. It was a matter of whether or not she should pay turnover tax.

She was given a list and asked to choose from the free professions listed. "Artist, perhaps?"

The senior tax man was sceptical. "Anyone can say he is an artist, but proving it is a different matter."

Charlotte Rougemont went queikly over all her fairy tales in her mind and within seconds she was telling the tale of the magic box that kept filling up with money as soon as you took money out.

A tale made for a tax man. The tax official laughed heartily and from then on there was no more talk of turnover tax.

In her 40 years fairy telling career, Frau Rougemont has told her stories in field hospitals and hospitals, in schools, kindergartens, borrstals and women's prisons, to women's circles and to children at birthday parties.

She has travelled throughout the country, to towns and villages, and has recorded everything in her diaries, whether a story-telling session was a success or not.

Maren Wamser/dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 January 1980)

Women in the police 'as good as men'

Women policeman are every b good as men — and some even better — an international p conference has been told.

And this applied to women demanding spheres such as dealing terrorists and coping with major de strations.

The congress, in Münster, was o ised by the German section of th ternational police officers organis (IOLP).

Delegates came from Britain, No Austria, the Netherlands and Germany.

IOLP vice-presidents Günter B and Robert Altmann said that ex ence in the United States, Britain the Netherlands had shown "women accomplish their tasks to plete satisfaction in major demo tions."

In the Dutch towns of Nijme and The Hague, women have for the four years been members of special terrorist and anti-hijacker squads si lar to the German GSG-9 units w rescued the passengers held hostag the Lufthansa jet in Mogadishu).

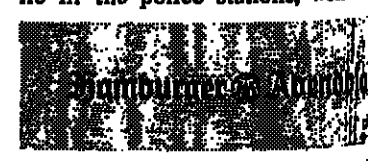
What is more, some women hold s ior positions in these squads.

The only factors that decide whet or not men or women are deployed selection, training and physical fitness.

The only criterion for whether or women get senior executive posts police forces is their personal qualifi tion. Psychologically, women are eq and, in some spheres, even superior.

Policemen tended to get involved verbal battles leading to an escalation of violence, whereas policewomen w more capable of preventing viole from developing.

On the beat or dealing with the p lic in the police stations, women ofte



tended to be better at communicat with people.

Women also tended to be m committed to the police service, m men regarded it as "just a job."

In the Rhineland Palatinate last y for example, 2,200 women applied 20 jobs. And at the National C training centre there were 70 female plicants for every 30 males.

Given the same selection, trai equipment and weaponry and perha slightly different physical training more judo and karate, less boxing wrestling — women can take on same tasks as men.

There are, according to lectures leadership techniques at the congress taboos about deploying women.

Policemen abroad, who were at f sceptical about their female colleag have found that women improve working climate.

Hamburg is the only town in Federal Republic of Germany which had women in its police force 1945.

They are used in youth work, ing female suspects and also on beat. At the moment there are women in the police force, 50 of in training. There are also 70 clothes policewomen in Hamburg.

Jürgen Meis

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 23 January

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 17 February 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 928 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Washington-Bonn link shows the strain

A shadow hangs over the relations between America and the Federal Republic of Germany. Of that there is no doubt, despite all the assurances of solidarity being given in Bonn.

Exactly how far the deterioration process has gone is impossible to say.

And it will remain impossible as long as the rather short coat of Western solidarity is used to conceal the various naked spots in the alliance.

Carter is not satisfied with Schmidt, and Schmidt is not happy with Carter. And it will not be possible to smooth over this dissension for much longer.

Either they will have to come to some arrangement soon or there will be an open break — which could be disastrous.

Much though Bonn is concerned with saving detente, there are also other risks which must be seen. America's willingness to step in and defend Europe must not be undermined.

If American government displeasure at the way Bonn is responding to its calls for solidarity were to be combined with the anti-European resentment of the American public, a dangerous development, could result.

Chancellor Schmidt's constant requests for a definite date for his talks with Brezhnev later this year could add further fuel to this irritation.

The Americans, especially with their tendency to withdraw and isolate themselves (as in the early years of the United States) could feel that they have been left in the lurch.

And this would be something the Anglo-Saxon mentality would bitterly resent. German and European security depend on the United States of America. And our economic survival would be gravely in doubt if the free flow of oil or the oil routes were cut off.

But there are areas in this crisis where we can act more independently. The Franco-German summit meeting in Paris recently was such an attempt. Its double aim was to master the crisis by means of a division of labour in the west and also to correct American course where it appears to be too extreme.

The division of labour is one sphere in which there is more scope for free movement. For instance, America could provide the military guarantees while Bonn and the other European allies provide economic cover — for Turkey and other Third World countries.

It could also be useful to have a diplomatic division of labour towards the Soviet Union, with varying degrees of toughness.

But there are other necessities which are quite simply ineluctable. West Germany will have to accept the fact that the Afghanistan crisis is going to last longer. We cannot let up in our demands for a withdrawal of the Soviet invasion troops.

The West must do this with persistence and perseverance and one means towards it is sanctions. It would be difficult to avoid a West German boycott of the Olympic Games if Washington continues to insist on an American boycott.

Inevitably there will also be a new phase of rearmament, in Europe as well as in the United States. Henry Kissinger was right when he said in Davos recently: "The West has neglected its military strength far toc long. There is no other solution than to increase the total military capacity of the United States and its allies."

For the sake of its own future the West cannot continue its defensive stance of the 70s towards Moscow.

It is good that Bonn, in full appreciation of this country's interests, continues to try to rescue what can be rescued of detente. But the wordiness with which it is doing so contains dangers.

One the one hand, it makes the Americans insecure, on the other it is deluding the German people about how long and difficult the task is.

Kissinger was also right when he said: "We will have to make still greater sacrifices." Psychological sacrifices because times are getting tougher. And material sacrifices, because security and affluence are going to cost us more in future.

Jürgen Offenbach

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 February 1980)



Visitor from Iraq

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Sadoun Hammadi, visited Bonn this month for talks over the current crises. He is with Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

Apel confident about defence forces

Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel believes that this country's defence is assured, even if strategic factors should lead to a reduction of American troop numbers in this country.

This was the tenor of his argument at the Munich Defence Conference. In his view the Bundeswehr is ready for all eventualities. But is it really?

Of course no one seriously wants the Bundeswehr to take on tasks outside Nato. Opposition defence spokesman Wörner stressed that the CDU/CSU did not advocate this.

But there is no doubt that in view of the present world political crisis we need to step up our defence efforts.

No one can expect the Americans to increase defence expenditure by 5 per cent a year while we, in our vulnerable position in central Europe, do not make adequate increases in our own defence spending.

The present tensions between East and West certainly do not mean that we should now abandon detente. But it underlines that there are many imponderables and we must be armed for eventualities.

Finally, how is the Defence Minister going to argue for more defence expenditure if he reckons that we are now adequately provided for?

Mark Johann

(Nordwest Zeitung, 11 February 1980)

Russia has reason to be satisfied

The Soviet Union has reason to be satisfied. It is calm and composed, while the West is in disarray over its reaction to the Afghanistan invasion.

The West protested loudly against the invasion and is worried that this could be the first of more.

East-West climate is getting colder and colder.

The Kremlin has intimated, for example, that it is not particularly interested in receiving a visit from Helmut Schmidt, who has been asking the Russians to name a date.

President Carter announced what he intended doing in retaliation but did not first consult his allies. And the European allies have so far proved unable to agree on what is to be done.

The youngest and so far most serious blow to Western unity is France's surprising decision not to take part in the Western conference of foreign ministers which was due to take place in Bonn.

Three days after the France-German declaration in Paris which the Bonn government celebrated as a document of unity, that unity was again shattered.

For reasons of home policy, and also because he is not convinced of Carter's leadership qualities, President Giscard d'Estaing opposes too tough a united Western response to the Soviet challenge.

On the one hand he does not want to provoke the Kremlin. Possibly he also believes he can act as an intermediary between East and West, perhaps on the basis of a gradual withdrawal of the Red Army from Afghanistan, which there is speculation about in various quarters.

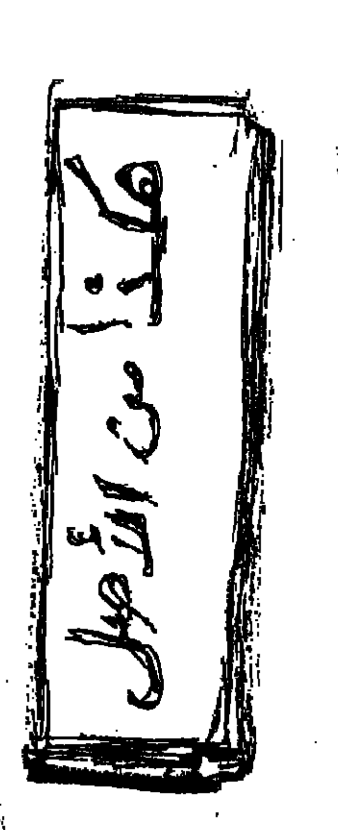
There is certainly some sympathy in Bonn circles for this French strategy.

That is precisely the danger, especially for us. For West Germany, more than any other Western country, is dependent on American protection, particularly for Berlin.

Werner Neumann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 February 1980)

IN THIS ISSUE



■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Frosty atmosphere as arms reduction talks get under way again

The atmosphere was frosty when Warsaw Pact and Nato delegates resumed talks in Vienna on Mutual Balanced Forces Reduction (MBFR).

It was the same hall, in the Imperial Palace, where on a sunny June day last year, President Carter and Soviet leader Brezhnev embraced each other.

Soviet Ambassador Tarassov, on this less jovial occasion, left it to the head of the Polish delegation, Strulak, to deliver the opening address.

With studied coolness, Mr Strulak spoke of the West's lack of willingness to reach a compromise.

He said that Nato's proposals for an interim agreement (presented in mid-December just before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan) on troop reductions in central Europe were unacceptable. But he studiously avoided using the word "rejection".

The cautious and circumspect sophism with which the Warsaw Pact described its position made it amply clear that it did not want to make the MBFR talks the stage for a diplomatic East-West confrontation.

There was no reference to Afghanistan at the talks and the Luxembourg delegate, Molitor, speaking on behalf of Nato, referred to Afghanistan as "events in another part of the world that cast a shadow on the process of detente."

These events, he said, had reduced the mutual trust on which progress of the MBFR talks depends. But it was in the interests of all, he went on, to continue seeking an agreement and proceed with the Vienna talks.

This marked the limits to which the West was prepared to react to the Afghanistan incident in Vienna.

The Polish delegate contented himself with a general reference to a particularly complicated situation in Europe and the world — a situation created contrary to the intentions of the Warsaw Pact states; but he studiously avoided any mention of who created this situation and how this was done.

This Vienna conference was envisaged as a long-term project from the very beginning and has been conducted for the past seven years with much patience and care for detail, without deadlines and without the express intention of arriving at results at all costs.

The delegates have not yet found common ground for solid compromise solutions.

The western offer of an interim agreement for the withdrawal of 30,000 Soviet and 13,000 US troops without heavy weaponry and postponement of the withdrawal of armour and nuclear weapons was geared to the specific Vienna concept of time. This was to be a preliminary step on a long road and was not to anticipate any final results.

Brezhnev's announcement on 6 October last year that he would withdraw 20,000 Soviet troops and 1,000 tanks from the GDR had no effect on the Western proposal since it was made outside the MBFR talks and the Russian leader had made no reference to Vienna.

Nor did the East intimate that there was any connection between the two in the present round of talks. The Soviets wanted to keep their options open.

But before the talks were resumed Moscow had cautiously asked whether Nato would offset the 20,000 men withdrawn from the GDR against the figure proposed by the West.

In other words: the Soviets wanted to know whether the West would content itself with the withdrawal of another 10,000 instead of 30,000 Soviet troops.

Nato answered diplomatically that it could not agree to anything ahead of time. This leads to the conclusion that the Russians can take it any way they like and that they would have to bear the consequences.

If they want to take the 20,000 men into account they should state so in Vienna and furthermore provide detailed information about their troop strength — something that has been pending for a long time.

Without agreement by both sides on basic data in the area where troops are to be reduced no agreement can be reached.

But this has a certain advantage for the progress of negotiations, an advantage the East has officially emphasised in Vienna: as long as the Soviets do not take a firm stand they can remain flexible.

They could withdraw 20,000 men and 1,000 tanks to start with and then accept the Western proposal to withdraw another 30,000 men. This would reduce the Soviet troop strength by 50,000. But since one-third of the 150,000-man discrepancy between Nato estimates and information provided by the Warsaw Pact concerns Soviet land forces, the problem of making the data match would be reduced.

All this is of course speculation. Though a flexible arrangement is thinkable, it is not yet in the offing.

The Warsaw Pact reaction to the latest Nato proposals for supplementary measures to reduce troop movements in the region concerned is more concrete.

The proposal initially met with complete rejection in the East. Warsaw Pact diplomats argued in a way very similar to the objection of the Western military — especially against the restriction of "activities outside usual garrisons".

Like at Nato headquarters, the Warsaw Pact delegates intimated that such drastic restrictions of troop movements would be out of proportion to the envisaged troop reductions and that they could considerably reduce the military defence capability.

The Soviets have made it clear that they would no permit their own territory to be included in an agreement — at least not until North American territory was made subject to controls and restrictions.

They also intimated that it would be unacceptable to include Hungary, a military staging area for Warsaw Pact troop movements between central and southern Europe, in such controls and restrictions.

The Eastern diplomats also officially stressed that the supplementary measures contained in the Nato proposal would exceed the framework of the Vienna talks.

They said that this would go beyond the demarcation line between troop reduction and the more encompassing European security as a whole which is to be negotiated at the CSCE Follow-up Conference in Madrid.

No Afghanistan crisis was thus needed to protract the Vienna talks.

Lothar Ruehl

(Die Zeit, 8 February 1980)

Soviets aim at achilles heel: Berlin

The Soviet Union obviously believes it can split the united front of the West by threatening its most vulnerable point: Berlin.

An interview given by Moscow's ambassador in East Berlin, Pjotr Abrassimov, was more than just a manoeuvre to distract from Russian aggression.

It is a continuation of actions hostile to detente. After Abrassimov's tough and unjustified accusations, we can expect difficulties in and around Berlin.

Of course the powers that be in the Kremlin told Abrassimov what to say and what not to say.

The broadsides against the US, the hidden recommendation that the Europeans should stop supporting Washington's policies, did not come from Abrassimov alone.

The time and place of this Kremlin declaration via Abrassimov are interesting: immediately after the meeting between Schmidt and Giscard, which Carter interpreted as proof of solidarity; and in Germany, which has reason to fear for Berlin.

This typical Soviet grasping of the initiative proves — as do Abrassimov's comments on Afghanistan — how sensitively the Soviets respond to worldwide reaction and how unsure they have become.

Moscow has always interpreted any kind of concession as a sign of weakness. Detente policy must not be abandoned. But it only promises to bring success if the West refuses to be intimidated.

Axel Ostrowski

(Kieler Nachrichten, 8 February 1980)

Summit dispels doubts about European solidarity

Coalition and opposition reacted differently to the joint statement by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on the close of the Franco-German summit.

But the differences should not be overestimated since the results of the meeting are mainly positive.

Those who might have doubted France's reliability and loyalty towards Nato because of that country's special position within the alliance will now have their misgivings dispelled.

In Washington, where Germany's loyalty was never in doubt anyway, the joint statement is bound to be received with satisfaction.

The frequent demand that we close ranks with America — something that Germans sorely missed during the initial stages of the latest crisis — has been realised thanks to the binding agreement on Franco-German consultations.

Close examination of the joint statement shows nothing that could indicate an "uncoupling" from the United States.

The willingness of the two strongest Western continental powers in Europe to shoulder responsibility in coping with the acute crisis should not be interpreted as withdrawal to the role of mediators in bringing the Soviet Union, which has manoeuvred itself into a cul-de-sac, back to the negotiating table.

Instead, Bonn and Paris signalled to Washington that they were prepared to unburden America within the Nato region and in the French influence sphere in Africa to enable the US to safeguard Western positions in the Middle East.

In concert with Jimmy Carter, who has set limits to Soviet expansion, Bonn and Paris have now also drawn a line clearly marking the point at which detente with Moscow is no longer possible and massive Western countermeasures become inevitable.

Another intervention like that in Afghanistan would make the cup of Western patience run over.

The joint communiqué makes it clear that Moscow's latest attempts to drive a wedge between America and its European allies have foundered.

Though Bonn and Paris want to make use of the narrow scope of detente in the heart of Europe, they will only do so in close consultation with the United States.

Bonn and Paris are jointly seeking new ways of reducing tension. The governments of the two countries have made it clear, however, that their efforts at overcoming the crisis can only be meaningful if the Soviet Union demonstrates its will to go along.

It is now Moscow's turn to make a move. Brezhnev's recent conciliatory speech favouring detente can prove that such a policy is still possible by withdrawing from Afghanistan.

But his actions can also substantiate the contentions of those who say that the Soviets are unimpressed by the limits set by the West, as demonstrated with Budapest and Prague.

Bonn and Paris have made yet another attempt to take Leonid Brezhnev by his word and test Moscow's willingness to pursue a policy of detente.

There is both resignation and hope in the Paris communiqué, which demonstrates the seriousness of the situation either way.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 6 February 1980)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution Manager: Georgine Picone.

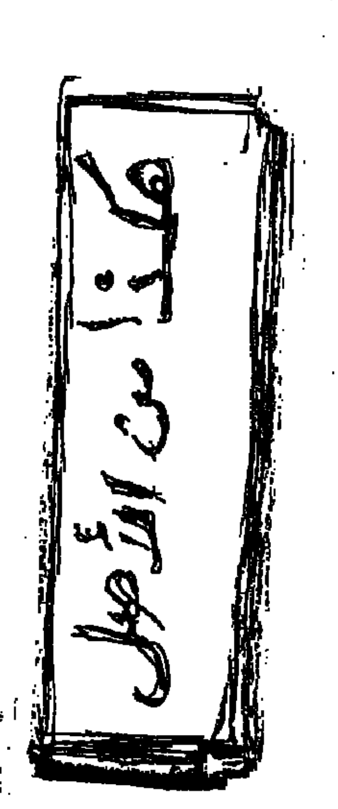
Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 22 85 1 Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No. 13 —
Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.



■ TRAFFIC

Meeting defeats move for change in autobahn overtaking procedure

A meeting of experts of traffic has rejected a motion that overtaking on autobahns be allowed on the right hand side.

In towns, the law has long allowed choice of lane, that is the right to overtake on both the inside and outside, for most vehicles.

But delegates to the fourth traffic court congress in Goslar decided that the innovation would not be appropriate because of the speed of autobahn traffic.

About 1,000 judges, prosecutors and journalists took part in the debate.

A decision in favour of the same system on the autobahns could have spelled progress.

The resolution adopted at the end of the debate was: "The free choice of traffic lane, including the right to overtake on the right, cannot be permitted outside townships due to the high speeds on an open road."

If this were coupled, however, with a 100 kph speed limit, the whole thing might be feasible, two experts said.

But everybody was loath to be accused by the motorists of having used this as a pretext for a lower autobahn speed limit.

Instead, the work group responsible voted for even more liberty in the choice of traffic lane within townships.

At present, only cars and small lorries may choose their lane. The recommendation now was that this be extended to all motor vehicles, including the two-wheeled variety. Of course, many drivers believe that this is allowed anyway.

On the other hand, the experts drew attention to something that has been allowed since 1968 without most drivers knowing it: motorists on the autobahn may overtake on the right if there is a column on the left or if traffic on the left is excessively slow.

In such circumstances, the individual driver may change to the right-hand column but only if he drives no faster than 20 kph, more than the slow column.

Advice of congress usually taken

In other words: if that column is stopped he can pass it on the right at no more than 20 kph. If it moves at 40 kph, he may pass at 60; and if the column is going at 60 kph — still considered creeping along on the autobahn — he may accelerate to 80.

But that's it, because the next 20 kph would take him to the maximum speed of 100 kph.

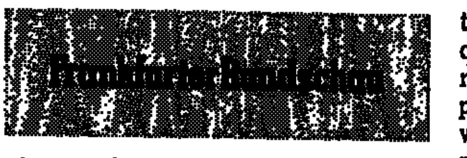
This regulation is based on a Federal Court ruling and is now to be included verbatim in the traffic regulations.

By and large, Bonn heeds the advice of Goslar Congresses. Thus, for instance, it was on recommendation of a previous congress that Bonn made safety belts mandatory and introduced the 0.08 per cent blood alcohol limit. The same applies to the list of fines which was devised in Goslar in 1964.

This Goslar meeting also called for the continuous education of traffic court judges and prosecutors.

The congress itself is exemplary in providing this education.

There was, for instance, the grotesque dispute in various courts over signalling



when turning a corner. This dispute was settled in 1965.

Three years later, it was clarified in court that the wrong reaction to sudden danger is not necessarily negligent and culpable. This is particularly so when what would have been the correct course of action only becomes known after the event.

But the Goslar meeting has also been known to be wrong. For instance: in 1963 it wanted to revive the old rule for making a left turn into a parking lot or property which stated that the driver should first stop along the right-hand curb and then cautiously drive in.

Another instance is the waiving of the right-of-way if two drivers have communicated with each other and agreed to this effect. This was considered not practicable. And yet it has long since become part of our traffic regulations.

And now the congress was once more unpopularly progressive with its call for the "little black box" for motor vehicles.

This is to be devised along the lines of the instrument which has been mandatory on aircraft for many years and which automatically records such essential data as speed, braking pressure, signalling, lights and the use of the hooter.

In the normal course, all this information is erased automatically. But in case of an accident, the data for the last two minutes before impact remain on tape, providing clear information on the driver's actions. The work group concerned reiterated its contention that the box helps shed light on accidents, thus either supporting the claim of victims or exonerating the driver. It called for its introduction as soon as possible.

But this can only be done in concert with all EEC member nations — and this could easily take 10 years.

In the meantime, the work group advocates the voluntary introduction of the recorder as an absolutely objective witness to the driver's innocence.

Should the recorder tend to prove the opposite, as many a driver might fear, its information may not be used to his detriment.

Under no circumstances is the box to be made accessible to the police, who might simply want to check for speeding.

One member of the group said: "The recordings must not be used to prosecute inconsequential traffic violations."

The congress discreetly avoided any reference to the new anti-blocking brake systems (ABS). These are now provided as extras for certain BMW, Mercedes and Audi models.

Yet, the ABS is one reason to demand the introduction of the recorder because cars equipped with it leave virtually no brake marks on the road surface.

More than 10,000 heavy Mercedes and BMW cars now have the new brake system, and the Audi 200 will follow in the autumn.

Though the work group concerned originally wanted to demand the introduction of the recorder for these cars only, this was dropped at an early stage. Rightly so, since this would be discriminatory because other cars might also leave poor brake marks and thus make it difficult to shed light on the causes of an accident.

Still, ABS drivers would be well advised themselves to instal the box. This would enable a driver who has spent DM2,300 for the safest brakes to prove what non-existent brake marks are unable to prove: that he drove correctly and stepped on the brakes in time.

No cheap recording device yet

Audi is now contemplating providing ABS buyers with a brake pressure recorder. But this would tell nothing about the other reactions of the driver and nothing about the speed.

Though this will not be enough in the long run, it would be a good beginning.

At present, there are no cheap accident recorders. They require a great deal of promoting to reach a reasonable price of between DM50 and DM100.

This would not be much to pay considering the information it would provide on accidents.

The benefits derived from them would be inestimable if their very presence caused people to drive more cautiously.

Gerhard Hölther

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 February 1980)

Motorised two-wheel vehicles show dark side of accident statistics

Twenty eight thousand people in 1978 were involved in accidents with mopeds and motorised minibikes — and 850 of those died. Most were teenagers.

A dozen years ago 0.9 per cent all youngsters were in a minibike accident. Ten years later the figure was 20 per cent.

For the somewhat stronger mopeds, the accident rate trebled over the same period.

One example is Daniela. She was 15 and had but one wish: a minibiki of her own.

But her father was adamant in refusing — because he was the editor of a metropolitan daily and knew from his own paper how many youngsters come to grief with these vehicles.

Of course, Daniela thought her father unnecessarily old-fashioned; so one day she barrowed her boyfriend's minibike and was killed on her first ride.

Her story is one of many.

Steep rise in number of machines

The number of these two-wheelers has risen steeply in the past 10 years, and with it the number of accidents.

The 160,000 minibikes and mopeds registered in Germany in 1969 multiplied to 1.4 million in 1978.

For our youngsters, these two-wheelers

DIE ZEIT

are the first step on the way to becoming part of our motorised society.

It is a dangerous step.

The Bonn Government has released the figures to satisfy a Parliamentary inquiry. It has also evolved new regulations for drivers of these two-wheelers, to come into effect on 1 April.

Among the most important new elements are: minibike drivers must show proof that they have passed a test (previously they only had to prove that they were 15 or older).

Moped drivers whose driving licence only required them to pass a theoretical test will now have to prove in practice as well, that they can handle their vehicle.

The new regulations are bound to be helpful. But no test and no official licence can eliminate the recklessness which is typical of this age group.

Governments in Bonn and the *Länder* know this of course. They have therefore worked out a training programme as an introduction to motorised road traffic (commissioned by the Bonn Transport Ministry and carried out by the Roads Department, the Traffic Safety Council, the German Automobile Club and driving teachers' associations).

One hundred instructors have been testing the programme since last autumn, supported by the moped and minibike industry, which has provided the vehicles free of charge.

The main objective is to reduce the conscious or unconscious desire to take risks. The courses are designed for 20 double periods and will include theoretical discussions, case studies and practical training.

To make the programme as effective as possible and encompass the greatest possible number of youngsters, it was devised to enable many organisations to provide the necessary courses.

These could be schools, driving schools, the police, companies, guilds and youth groups.

Those heading the courses must themselves put in one semester of correspondence courses with Hagen University, involving about 80 hours of work. The courses are rounded off with a five-day seminar and practical training on minibikes and mopeds.

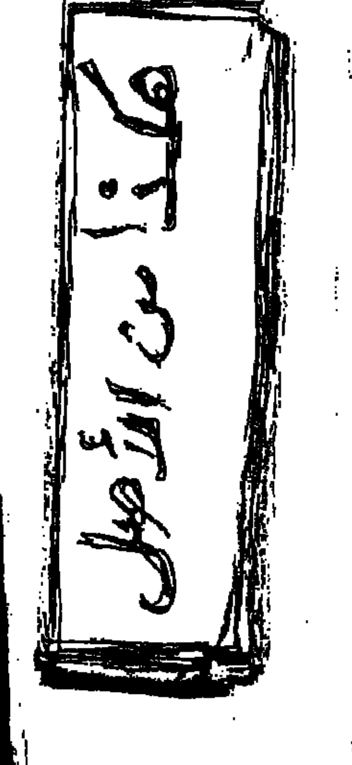
Though the project is certainly useful, it would be better if it were not left to chance and the commitment of individual instructors whether a young person receives correct instruction for coping in traffic.

The education ministers of the *Länder* should make such training part of the normal curriculum in schools.

If this were done, they could be certain that the pupils would not be learning for school but for life — or living.

Axel Thomas

(Die Zeit, 1 February 1980)



■ THE ARTS

A mixed reaction to display for children

Reactions to the exhibition on The Social Reality of Children in the Visual Arts in the Kunsthalle in Berlin have been mixed.

One 12-year-old girl wrote in the visitors' book: "I think the exhibition is more for adults than for children. But I thought it was very funny all the same, and now my feet hurt."

Some older visitors clearly were not amused and one wrote: "A depressing exhibition. Is being a child or having children as terrible as this?"

The exhibition, jointly organised by the New Visual Arts Society (NGBK) and the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Berlin, opened last year, the Year of the Child, but does not end until mid-February this year.

The NGBK group, some of whom are teachers, had three main questions in mind when they began planning the exhibition two years ago: what material and social conditions have children lived in the past five centuries? What adults did they grow up with and relate to? And how did the visual arts portray children?



Käthe Kollwitz's 'Working woman with sleeping child,' 1927

Very complex questions that would certainly be easier to answer in a large scholarly work than in an exhibition.

But the NGBK group took the risk and filled the two extensive storeys of the Berlin Kunsthalle with 500 paintings, drawings, posters and sculptures from the 16th century to the present day — loans from 45 European museums and private collections, some even from the Soviet Union.

The works are chronologically arranged. At the beginning we see the children of aristocrats in a feudal setting, richly attired, rather anaemic princes and princesses.

And at the end the ironic, macabre pictures of today, for example Harald Düwe's gloomy "Place in the Sun", Peter Nagel's toy box nightmares and the bitter diagnoses of Hanefi Yeter, a Turk living in Berlin ("Illiterate in two languages," "A German Family out for a walk").

And between the extremes of courtly sterility and today's voices raised in anger and warning there are hundreds of exhibits illustrating very different aspects of the subject: children playing, learning, working, even children involved in revolutions.

Well looked-after children, neglected children, healthy and sick children. Happy and sad faces. Children in need, begging and even turning to drink. Among the most impressive exhibits are the drawings of Käthe Kollwitz.

A large section is devoted to "Children under German Fascism". Here the reality of Nazi barbarism is contrasted with the lying embellishments of Nazi propaganda.



'Country schoolfriends,' a copper-plate engraving taken from an earlier work by Daniel Nikolaus Chodowiecki (1726–1801). (Photos: Catalogue)

The response to the exhibition has been excellent and it is well attended, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, when there are up to 500 visitors. And quite a few of them write their spontaneous comments and impressions down in the visitors' book.

An exhibition that offers so much is almost bound to have something for everyone — it depends on viewpoint, experience, associations.

Certainly there are "beautiful" pictures, amusing and delightful paintings. But the general impression is depressing.

The 12-year-old girl was right when she said that the exhibition was more for adults than for children. This is undoubtedly one of the organisers' intentions. Their aim is to enlighten and inform, as they say in the catalogue.

And so their message is directed mainly at adults, parents: "Twenty years after the UN proclamation of the children's rights, the discrepancy between this country's wealth and its deliberate discrimination against children has not got smaller."

Of course this does not mean that children should stay away, and there are even guided tours for school classes. The organisers of the exhibition are, one hopes, self-critical enough to take note of some of the points made by children. One is that the pictures are too high up for children to see properly.

It is always interesting for professional reviewers of exhibitions to read the public's comments in the visitors' book. I did so in the Kunsthalle's fine cafeteria (with its excellent Turkish cuisine).

The 12-year-old girl was not the only one to complain about the size of the exhibition. One person wrote: "The size of the exhibition spoils all the good intentions." Another wrote: "Less would have been better."

This confirms my criticism. And the critical public are right in another respect when they say: "The overall structure of the exhibition is very unclear in places"; or "well collected, but no historical explanation whatsoever"; and "I looked for explanations, but nothing..."

It is understandable and basically laudable that the NGBK has abandoned its

Continued on page 11

A realised dream: furnishing a room with music

"Never go to sleep without listening to a piece of furniture music or you will not sleep well," said composer Erik Satie.

His dream of "musically furnishing" a room has at last been realised — at the latest Berlin Academy of Arts exhibition.

And there is an additional ironic note to this exhibition: we are all used to supermarkets, airport lounges and even cow byres where musak is played non-stop.

And the secret sense of this restaurant and supermarket music is that we do not hear it. The idea is that some hidden ear should hear it. Maybe this ear is somewhere in the stomach or thereabouts...

The Berlin exhibition For Eyes and Ears will give our eyes, ears and of course our mind plently to do in the coming weeks. It is also an amusing exhibition.

The variety of exhibits and things to do is immense and the display itself — put on by the German Academic Exchange Service and the Prussian Cultural Foundation Musical Instrument Museum — is labyrinthine.

This exhibition, which comes after several years of planning, aims to prove that visual arts can be heard and that music can be seen.

It is not a static exhibition. There well be constant changes in the exhibits with, for example, short special exhibitions of cybernetic objects.

There will be performances, ballets and quasi-ballets, futurism, Duchamp and Flux music evenings, premieres and repeats of aleatory, ultrachomatic, electronic and mechanical composition techniques.

One of the most familiar examples of visual music is chimes such as with the glockenspiel. Of course it was not possible to fit a church tower into the exhibition and so the organisers had to make do with photographs.

Then comes a 220-year-old harp clock. The metal keys hit and operate the strings of the harp. There is also a flute-clock which works on the same principle and has three different registers. The Berlin winter is too cold to listen to Aeolian harps, but one of these instruments is at least on display.

There are all kinds of musical boxes and musical clocks, with little birds shooting out, fluttering their wings and pinging a few notes.

The workshop of a barrel organ builder is on display here and is so authentic that one feels like getting on with the work straight away. From the orchestrion and the automatic harmonium to Edison's phonograph and then to the instrument Lola Lola sang about in the Blue Angel — the pianola. Then come automatic pianos and gramophones.

A new age begins. The orchestra comes to living room and bedroom, its effects no longer need to be simulated — it is transportable.

In 1912 a concert was given in London in which Easthope Martin played a Grieg piano concerto on the pianola — accompanied by Artur Nikisch and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Among the mechanical instruments we find a carousel organ with a moving dancer.

Then comes the electronic instruments section in which we find the ancestors of modern electronic instruments which blow our minds...

The most interesting and unusual feture of the exhibition are the sound-objects and the musical environments. Whereas the instrument makers obsessively pursued the goal of constructing sound apparatuses that produced music so that the listener did not notice the absence of human beings, the principle of the visual artists working in this field was to draw attention to this automatic aspect and make it visible or at least intellectually perceptible.

Man Ray's eyes-metronome is one of the most harmless exhibits in this exhibition jungle, where tones can be perceived acoustically, visually and sometimes even felt by the entire body.

Two electronic organs conduct a dialogue. Automatic step-dancers dance. Colour pigments form clouds of dust when one picks up a microphone to speak.

Parts of an assembly of piles and doors react acoustically with splashing water. There is a huge Kagel instrument section. In the performance room there is a large environment designed by David Jones: a rain forest, hanging tubes and barrels, tin, wood and plastic objects which one can walk between while a team of composers elicit grating, hissing and banging tones from the objects.

In Joe Jones' phenomenal Music Store, a shop window, musical instruments declare their independence and play themselves.

Of course there are abortive and plain tedious attempts at music. But on the whole this is one of the must unusual and ideas-packed exhibitions for years.

Peter-Hans Göpfert

(Nordwest Zeitung, 26 January 1980)

■ INFORMATION

Uphill struggle to reach eyes and ears of East bloc people

Not much printed material from the West gets into Eastern Europe, and when it does it is often by mistake.

One reason is that printed material can easily be channelled. It can be counted and weighed, and if necessary checked and banned.

On the other hand, the radio programmes of the *Deutsche Welle* and the *Deutschlandfunk*, which broadcast from Cologne, are popular in East Europe. The authorities cannot do much to stop these programmes coming over the air.

But attempts to get a foothold in Eastern Europe with printed and illustrated magazines have been firmly resisted.

The only exception to this rule is during trade fairs, when slightly more liberal stances have been adopted. At these fairs, in Leningrad, Posnania, Bucharest and Sofia, magazines from West Germany have been on sale, but strictly rationed. And they contain for the most part technical information or economic articles.

For East European publications here, the situation is far more favourable. At the end of the 1950s, a West German supplier listed 12 magazines and papers which Moscow produced for distribution in the West.

There are no import or sales restrictions on German-language magazines and newspapers for sale here.

The Bonn Government now publishes an information magazine for the East Bloc in several East European languages, including Russian. The publication of the various editions went hand in hand with cultural agreements signed between Bonn and the respective East European countries.

The first of these was a magazine called *Prisma*, first put out in the late 1960s, in Rumanian.

It took another 10 years before the Russian language magazine, *Guten Tag*, came out at the end of 1979.

The Bonn Government covers the costs of the publication, which is produced by the Friedrich Reinecke Verlag, in Hamburg.

These magazines all have 40 pages and have similar layouts. There is a fixed number of colour pages and regular features such as: "The Way We Live," "Meeting Point of the World," "People and Countryside in the Federal Republic of Germany," "Press Review," "The World of Science and Technology," "Encounters," etc.

The magazines all contain tables of contents and summaries in German.

When *Guten Tag* was launched, Bonn spokesman Klaus Bölling, head of the Bonn Press and Information Office, said that people in this country had had an opportunity for the past 24 years to receive information about the Soviet Union in the shape of the magazine *Soviet Union Today*.

And there are now 15 other German-language magazines and newspapers published by the Soviet Union and distributed in this country.

Bölling expressed the hope that the dialogue established by these two magazines would help to improve mutual understanding "and to create the climate of trust and detente which are the main preconditions for peaceful coexistence among peoples."

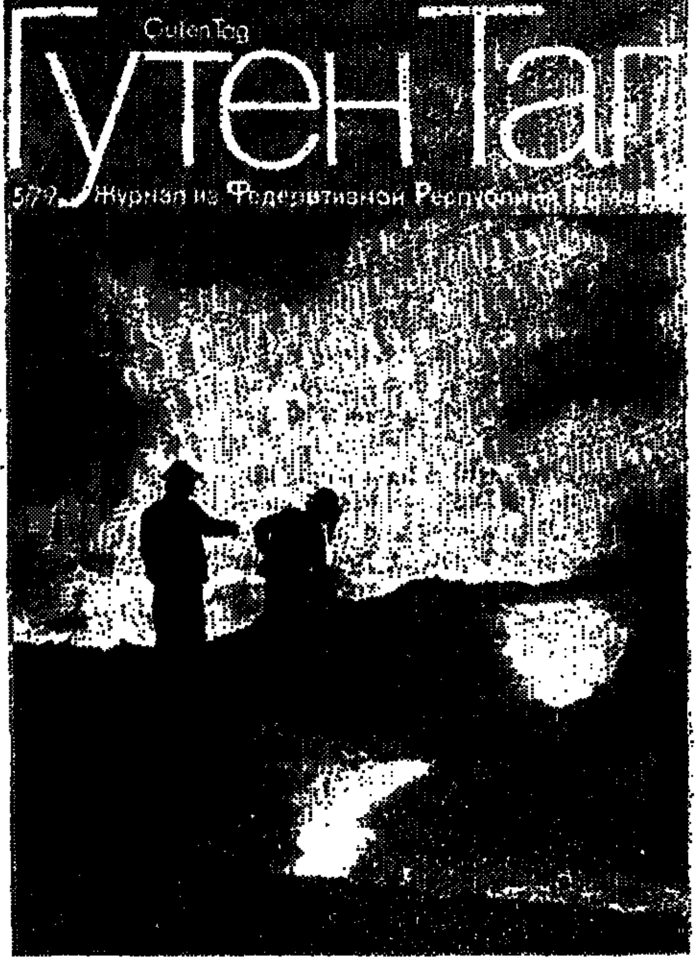
The first impression of the editorial conception is that it treads on no one's toes.

It is not mere obeisance, but it must willy nilly ensure that it gets over the hurdles set up for all Western publications trying to get into the East Bloc.

There must be nothing offensive in the widest sense of the word. This is an inevitable, built-in error.

However, it does at least present an opportunity to illustrate democracy and democratic rules impressively. The magazines cover a wide range of subjects and do not shy away from the darker sides of West German reality.

The linguistically well-produced magazines could help to reduce many of the distorted images of this country in East Europe, to show what everyday life in this country is really like (even though East European propaganda would like to have this presented differently) and to produce something approaching understanding. The articles, with their carefully produced photographs and statistical tables, also offer a lesson in lived democracy which would open up new possibilities to East European readers who could get hold of them. The magazines look close at the other side of the West German coin. There is no equivalent criticism of the darker sides of East European reality in their press. Although the magazines have been politically defused, they are still regarded as voices of capitalistic temptation by the East Bloc officials and authorities.



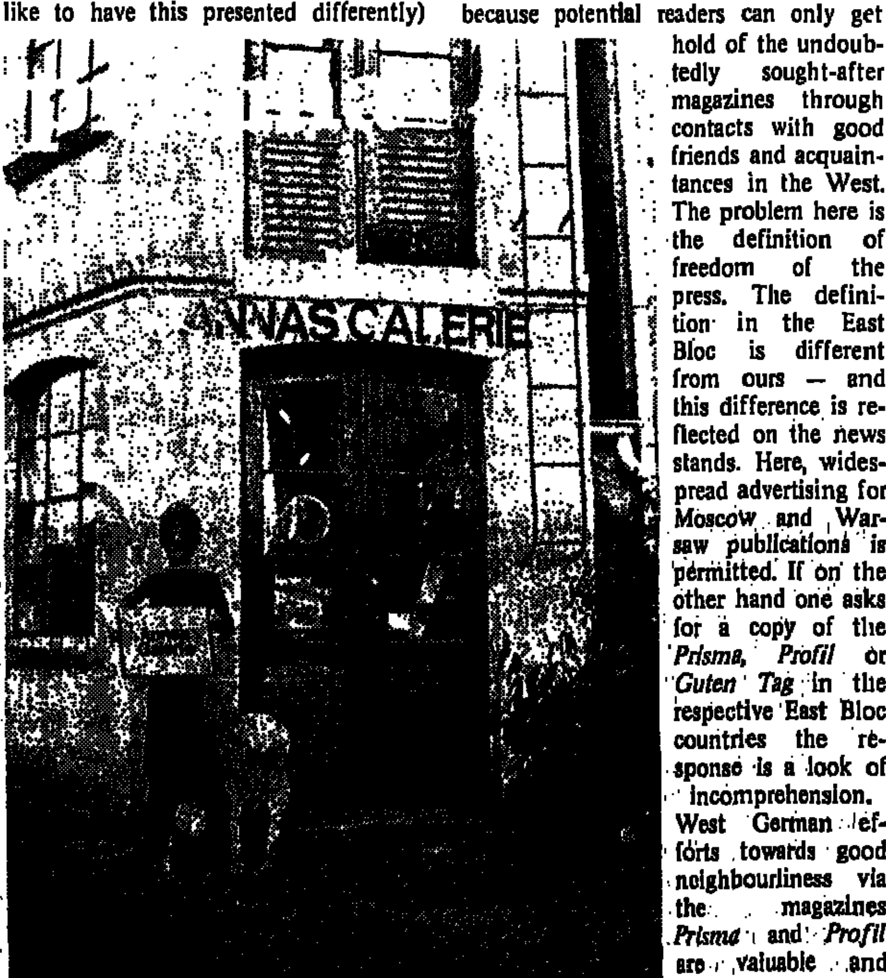
'Guten Tag' for the Russians.

Advertising is non-existent in East Europe and so one of the main problems is telling people in East Europe that the publications even exist.

Visitors to East Europe and East Europeans visiting West Germany say these publications are largely unknown in Eastern Europe.

There are no news stands or other sales points. Copies go to officials, institutes and individuals.

The magazines are cheap. *Guten Tag*, for example, costs only 40 kopecks in the Soviet Union. This is for wide circulation, but it does not in fact ensure this because potential readers can only get hold of the undoubtedly sought-after magazines through contacts with good friends and acquaintances in the West. The problem here is the definition of freedom of the press. The definition in the East Bloc is different from ours — and this difference is reflected on the news stands. Here, widespread advertising for Moscow and Warsaw publications is permitted. If on the other hand one asks for a copy of the *Prisma*, *Profil* or *Guten Tag* in the respective East Bloc countries the response is a look of incomprehension.



'Prisma' for the Rumanians. (Photos: Marianne von der Lancken)

West German efforts towards good neighbourliness via the magazines *Prisma* and *Profil* are valuable and worthwhile, as are other Bonn efforts to make East-West publication interchange something more than the one-way street it is at the moment.

However, these efforts are now coming a cropper — and are likely to do so in the future — because of the barriers of distrust and censorship which the East erects against everything from the West except hard western currency.

In view of this reality, Klaus Bölling's hopes written in the first issue of *Guten Tag*, remain a merely pious wish.

Magazines can contribute to good neighbourliness. There are precedents. But of course only if they can be read.

There is no chance that these well-illustrated magazines will be allowed to break into the uniform grey of the East Bloc news stands scene. *Dieter Kraeter*

(Rheinischer Merkur / Christ und Welt, 25 January 1980)

Continued from page 10

practice of providing huge and sometimes irritating explanations with every exhibit.

NGBK spokesman Jürgen Hoffmann, lecturer in art education at Berlin Teachers' Training College, said at the beginning of the exhibition that the group had progressed and would not be presenting an illustration of theses or of social history.

Good intentions, without a doubt. Trusting in the eloquence of the work of art itself and the sensitivity and awareness of the visitor.

All the same, an exhibition with these pretentions and covering such a long period would certainly have benefitted from clearer grouping and short, succinct aids to understanding.

Werner Rhode

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 January 1980)

High hopes for Russian theatre visit

Despite the deterioration in the West's relations with the Soviet Union, the City of Duisburg assumes that Soviet theatre groups will attend its 4th Duisburg Akzente Theatre Festival in May.

This year's festival will be headed Russia's Great Realists and will for the first time ever in this country give a comprehensive survey of the main poets, writers, painters and musicians who dominated intellectual scene in pre-revolutionary Russia.

Among the participants will be the Malaja Bronnaja Theatre, from Moscow, which will perform Turgenev's *Month in the Country* and Gogol's play, *The Marriage*.

There will also be lectures by Soviet literature scholars and performances by Russian music ensembles.

Western and Soviet film versions of Soviet classics will be shown in a special programme.

The Moscow Literature Museum will be flying in Dostroievski's complete study for the Russia's Great Writers exhibition. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 January 1980)

MEDICINE

Helping lepers with a fund drive – and a change of name

Leprosy Day was held on 27 January to commemorate the victims of the disease and begin a fund drive.

Most people in the Western world know little about leprosy except that they vaguely associate it with some sort of mysterious scourge.

Yet more than 10 million people have to live with the disease, which is prevalent in underdeveloped and heavily populated tropical countries. And to make matters worse, it usually goes hand in hand with pitiful social conditions.

Asia (India, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia) is estimated to have 6.5 million, Africa 3.5 million and Latin America 350,000 lepers.

Though no figures are available for China, that country is estimated to have about one million sufferers.

To remove some of the dread associated with the word, leprosy is now frequently called Hansen's Disease after the Norwegian researcher who discovered the bacillus that causes it in 1873.

No mention in the Bible

Wrong interpretations of the Bible have greatly contributed to mistaken ideas about leprosy which, in fact, is never mentioned in the Bible.

In central Europe, the disease has been wiped out since the beginning of the Modern Age.

But though no longer a scourge in Germany, research into the disease continues in this country.

Like with any other infectious disease, heavily afflicted persons act as carriers. So do certain blood-sucking insects.

Once the bacillus has entered the body it remains fairly dormant, multiplying slowly in the skin and the nervous system. It takes about 12 days to double, and eventually uncharacteristic blotches appear.



In most cases the body manages to overcome the infection and only few people develop the typical blotches or nodules — mostly in the face, the ears or the torso.

The diagnosis is easy since the afflicted portions become insensitive because the nerves are attacked at an early stage.

The further course of leprosy is determined by the patient's immunity mechanism. People with strong defences form so called defence granules. These cases are referred to by medicine as tuberculoid lepers. This type may remain quiescent or improve, with spontaneous disappearance of the lesions and complete recovery.

Lepromatous or cutaneous leprosy is marked by wide-spread infiltration by grainy masses of chronically inflamed tissue under the skin, the mucosal membranes of the upper respiratory tract, the face and testes. Untreated, its prognosis is poor.

But between these two extreme forms of the disease there are a number of intermediate forms which are frequently difficult to diagnose.

Unless the patient is treated correctly, the disease progresses to the socalled "burnt out" stage, as described by Graham Greene in one of his novels.

Fortunately, chemotherapeutic treatment as practised since 1942 has proved very effective. Great improvements have also been achieved with thalidomide.

Modern treatment had to be tested on the patients themselves due to the impossibility of cultivating the bacillus.

It was not until 1960 that researchers succeeded in cultivating the bacillus in the relatively cool paws of mice. In 1971, they managed to inject the bacillus in armadillos and cause general infection.

But it is impossible to restrict such important experiments to one animal only. Moreover, the armadillo cannot be raised in capacity and is rarely free of other diseases.

It was therefore an important breakthrough when scientists managed to transmit the disease to hedgehogs as well. Though hedgehogs are not found in countries with endemic leprosy, they have the necessary low body temperature (like the armadillo) needed for an infection to take hold.

Research into leprosy has been conducted for years in Bonn.

Among other things, the scientists want to clarify why the drugs administered to patients are so slow to affect the bacillus and why relapses once treatment has been discontinued are so prevalent. The Bonn researchers are also working on ways and means of immunisation.

The author, Professor Georg Klingmüller, teaches dermatology, with special emphasis on leprosy, at Bonn University.

The few lepers living in Germany require treatment over a long period. Furthermore, the doctors also have to deal with the social problems that go with the disease. This applies not only to Germany but to other European countries as well.

Holland, for instance, has 1,000 lepers (mostly from the former colonies) undergoing outpatient treatment. All of them have meanwhile been reintegrated into society.

German leprosy research can make a considerable contribution towards controlling the disease in countries where it is still a very serious problem.

The financial assistance by German donors, welcomed throughout the world, would be more effective if the research facilities available in this country were used more extensively.

Georg Klingmüller
(Die Welt, 26 January 1980)



Baby death rate blamed on lack of pre-natal care

Inadequate pre-natal care and inadequate use of available facilities are a cause of the high infant mortality rate in West Germany.

This is one finding of a study commissioned by the Bremen Health Authority, in whose area 21 of every 1,000 babies died in the first year in 1978.

The authority hopes to reduce this figure to between three and four per 1,000.

Its study was based on another research project the Hanover Medical School carried out for the Bonn Labour Ministry in 1978.

Bremen's study says that the birth process itself is so well organised that it can hardly account for the mortality rate.

Conditions in maternity clinics, where 99 per cent of births take place, are excellent.

But risks grow in direct proportion to the regularity with which mothers to-be attend prenatal checkups.

Over a period of 12 months, scientists kept records of all births in Bremen and tracked down the causes of most cases of infant mortality. The survey included 93.9 per cent of the births and 93.6 per cent of deaths.

The outcome of the study led to the following basic demand aimed at reducing the risk: pregnant women must be encouraged much more to attend prenatal checkups.

Starting from this summer, Bremen's health senator intends to introduce the following measure to comply with the demand: 20 to 30 midwives will counsel pregnant women and persuade them to make better use of prenatal care facilities.

This is to be a three-year pilot project, eventually to be introduced nation-wide. The project, financed by the Bonn Labour Ministry, will cost DM7 million.

The midwives hired by the Bremen Senate have meanwhile completed a special training course. In cooperation with local doctors, pediatric clinics and counselling centres, they will make every effort to recognise abnormalities in the pregnancies.

This type of counselling is particularly important in poorer areas.

But social integration also plays an important role: while 28.3 per cent of German pregnant women see a doctor regularly until the eighth week of pregnancy, only 18 per cent of foreign women do.

Another significant difference is that between married and single pregnant women.

There is a good reason for having chosen midwives for the job: the mother-to-be is to have an individual counsellor working in close cooperation with the hospital rather than a confusing number of different professional people.

The target of the Bremen Health Authority is to reduce still births and infant mortality up to the age of one to between three and four per 1,000.

Lorenz Thalmann
(Rheinischer Merkur / Christ und Welt, 25 January 1980)

A legal grey zone 'costs lives'

Forensic medicine in the Federal Republic of Germany lags behind international development.

This was the main point raised at the Academy of German Judges in a congress in Trier.

Doctors, judges and public prosecutors from all parts of the nation, attended.

A legal grey zone, the congress was told, prevented organ transplants necessary to stop suffering and save lives.

For fear of being caught in a "legal vacuum", many surgeons hesitate to make use of the medical and technical possibilities open in the transplantation of organs.

Compared with the international standard of surgery and transplant techniques, the congress was told, forensic medicine has barely progressed beyond the last century.

The lack of clear transplantation legislation has proved an insurmountable obstacle for most surgeons.

This is because the next of kin, faced with a dead relative, must be asked to consent to the removal of an organ, says Professor Harald Lange, of the Philipp University Clinic in Marburg.

Unless the deceased has during his lifetime put it on record that he is willing to donate an organ, the relatives most refuse the request.

As a result, Germany lags far behind other nations — especially in the important field of kidney transplants.

The developments are more favourable for smaller transplants.

Thus, for instance, 1,500 blind Germans have had their sight restored through cornea transplants.

But of the 14,000 fatal road casualties in 1976, only 158 were registered as

Frankfurter Rundschau

kidney donors. The annual need for kidney transplants in this country, however, is 2,000.

At present, only 20 per cent of the necessary transplants can actually be made.

According to the doctors at the congress, Germany ranges in place I among European countries in the field of kidney transplants.

Despite the progress that has been made, German surgeons are dissatisfied with the results of such transplants. In 25 per cent of the cases the implanted organ must be removed again due to irreversible rejection, and the patient must be attached to an artificial kidney.

This apparatus, however, replaces only 7 per cent of the normal excretion kidney function. Though it helps to prolong the life of the patient, under tolerable circumstances, most of them become severely invalided.

Successful kidney transplants, on the other hand, improve the circulation alleviating the anaemia that frequently goes with kidney diseases.

More transplants would clearly improve the success rate, the congress was told.

The lack of relevant legislation is responsible for the fact that the average waiting time for a donated organ is now 22 months.

Jacques Lie
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 February 1980)

EDUCATION

Chinese studies more popular as image of sinology changes

Studies of Chinese language and culture are booming. Between 60 and 80 first-year university students every year take Chinese courses.

Ten years ago the figure was between 16 and 20 a year.

The trend is comparatively recent. When Chinese Prime Minister Hua Guofeng visited West Germany it became clear that we were still short of interpreters for Chinese.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to turn to Chinese students and university lecturers in this country to accompany and interpret for Hua and the large group of Chinese journalists.

Only 15 years ago, Sinology as it is called here was regarded as a subject for unworldly academics. A typical image was that of the professor sipping tea and initiating his pupils into the world of Tang poetry.

And this image, though exaggerated, was not so short of the mark.

Sinologists in the early sixties wanted to learn the decorative Chinese characters and thus the language; they had a love of Chinese art — ancient Chinese art of course — and admired Chinese philosophy.

No more mocking of 'tea drinkers'

Normal students mocked the sinologists as "tea drinkers." At that time there were only two professorships of Chinese at German universities, in Munich and in Hamburg. Both professors were called Franke.

In view of China's increasing importance in world politics, Wolfgang and Herbert Franke urged the Science Council to recommend more teaching posts for sinologists at German universities.

Sinology up to the beginning of the Second World War had always also dealt with contemporary history — even though it was for a time a "colonial" science.

But it became caught in a cul de sac after the war and the Chinese revolution.

The isolationof Maoist China from the rest of the world made the study of contemporary China almost impossible, so it was hardly surprising that the study of classical Chinese literature predominated.

Fourteen new teaching and research posts were established at German universities by the mid-sixties.

The professional prospects for sinologists thus increased spectacularly and almost an entire generation of sinology students got posts at universities.

The student revolution and increased interest in the China of the cultural revolution then led to a change in the kind of students taking up sinology. The tea drinkers were joined by the apostles of Mao.

German cultural revolutionaires were particularly dominant in Berlin and in Munich. In Hamburg and Tübingen, political motives for studying sinology were not so marked.

Kuan Yu-chien, a reader in Chinese at Hamburg University, says: "The Maoists, who were only interested in learning Chinese because of their politics, did not stay long. After two terms, half of them had dropped out."

Sinologists often have a general interest in non-European cultures and this is an important factor in their choice of subject.

Hans Willem Schütte, now studying Chinese in Hamburg, is a case in point. He originally wanted to take African studies, but started Chinese at a pre-university course at the Leibniz Kolleg in Tübingen.

He then continued with Chinese, partly because he did not want to waste the time and effort he had apready put into it.

Schütte is interested in a comparison between the West, where technology is advancing so rapidly that we cannot keep up with it, and China, which has not yet reached a comparable technological level.

"I have learnt a lot about myself and about our view of ourselves in my studies of Chinese. We begin to see ourselves more objectively when we have studied another, very different culture," he says.

Like Schütte, Philip Kunig criticises the Eurocentrism of our university system. He says it is self evident that a German student should study Roman law but not that he should study Chinese law.

Kunig has just finished his law studies and has a junior lectureship. As a grammar school pupil, he was very interested in China, particularly in Mao Tse Tung and the cultural revolution. But he was not a Mao apostle.

He started a course in sinology. That means he had to learn modern idiomatic Chinese as well as classical Chinese, the dead language of philosphers and writers.

Kunig had studied Latin and Greek at school, so this was not a major problem. So classical Chinese was not the bugbear it is to many sinologists who are only interested in contemporary China.

A year after starting his course in sinology, he took up law. Although sinology was formally his main subject, he regarded it now as a means to an end — to help him become a lawyer specialising in Third World and especially in Chinese law.

And to do this you need to be able to read classical legal texts from the Chinese Empire as well as the laws of the People's Republic of China.

Kunig's interest in the language went so far that he even wrote a Chinese language textbook, in conjunction with fellow student Annette Sabban and a reader, Jung-lang Chao.

The book is an attempt — and a successful one — to use German grammatical concepts to explain the structure of the Chinese language.

This is a difficult task, as there are no conjugations or declensions in Chinese and no articles. Also the differences between verbs and nouns are far less clearcut than in German.

The book explains the basic structure of the language in 62 lessons. It teaches a basic vocabulary of 1,072 words and 787 characters. This is a basis of which to build with the help of a dictionary — enough to get by on on a journey to China.

Kunig, though he has never been to China, teaches the language at evening classes. Is there any point in trying to learn this, perhaps the most difficult language in the world, in a few hours a week?

Philip Kunig says that it is a start and helps the learner to decide whether or not he wants to pursue his studies of the language more deeply.

Pupils learn to decipher a few of the mysterious characters. This little insight into the language also gives them better access to Chinese thinking.

What are the professional options open to a graduate sinologist? Kuan Yu-chien is optimistic. He says that there will be increasing demand for sinologists in the Federal Republic of Germany in the coming years.

But not for those who have only studied Chinese and nothing else — their only chance is to get a job teaching sinology at universities.

Professor Tilemann Grimm sees opportunities for those who have studies sinology and anothersubject. He says professional opportunities depend more on a student's qualifications in law, economics or political science, and if they can then combine this with a knowledge of Chinese he believes their professional future is assured.

He stresses, however, that they ought to be able to speak Chinese — and this means spending at least a year in the Chinese-speaking world, in China or Taiwan.

DIE ZEIT

Many beginners aim ultimately to become journalists or diplomats. There is a shortage of students combining Chinese with an applied science, though these are the people with the best prospects.

They are in great demand in the construction of technical plant in China, for instance the German-built steel works in Wuhan. The trade boom with China is only beginning.

Since 1971, the Volkswagen Foundation has been holding special intensive courses for people from all kinds of professions who need Chinese.

The courses last four weeks. Teaching lasts all day and there are never more than 20 in any class. Here, various methods of teaching the language were tried.

I took part in one of these courses. I began with an American textbook, then we used a Peking textbook and much later we read texts and newspaper articles chosen by the lecturer. We got through a whole university term's work.

The students came from all walks of life: one was a numismatist specialising in Chinese coins, an art historian, a lawyer who had to negotiate contracts for his firm in China, a businessman who wanted to learn a little for a visit to the Canton Fair, and an ethnologist specialising in Chinese minorities.

Seventy per cent of the group that started Chinese in 1972 have kept it up. They have since worked in or on China as journalists or scholars; others have gone to China to study for a year or two.

Tilemann Grimm says that "we have Mao Tse Tung to thank that sinology has come out of its ivory tower."

It was Mao who made China a world power. And that is why sinology courses are now dominated by hard-headed pragmatists and not the dreaming scholars of the past.

Gisela Mahlmann
(Die Zeit, 1 February 1980)

West Berlin to increase priority of Turkish

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

West Berlin is to give its primary school children the chance to learn Turkish as a first foreign language.

The city has a large Turkish community.

Turkish parents' organisations and the Teachers' Union (GEW) have long advocated the introduction of Turkish as a first foreign language. The Berlin Education Department was sceptical at first, but has now changed its mind.

There will probably be a large majority in the Berlin City Parliament in favour of the move.

The CDU tabled a resolution to introduce Turkish at primary schools in autumn 1979. The resolution said that the purpose of the experiment was to maintain ties with the mother language and to put these pupils in a position to get better school-leaving qualifications and thus better vocational training.

Pupils — or their parents — choose their first foreign language in the fifth class at the age of 11.

The options are English, French and Latin.

A second choice is possible in the 7th class of grammar and technical schools.

Some Turkish children are already learning Turkish as a second foreign language.

The experiment will be limited at first to three or four primary schools in the Kreuzberg district.

Between 100 and 120 pupils will take part in the scheme. The lessons will be given by Turkish teachers qualified to teach in grammar and middle schools.

Spokesmen for all three political parties welcomed the move in the schools committee.

Jürgen Ulzen of the CDU thanked the Senate for acting on the CDU resolution. He described the experiment as "constructive."

The scheme, which will start this autumn, was made possible thanks to a Berlin resolution at the Ministers of Education Conference calling for foreign pupils to be allowed to study their mother tongue instead of the compulsory foreign language.

The conference even went further than the present Berlin scheme. It will recognise the mother tongue "even if no teaching in it is possible; a pupil's ability will be tested in an examination."

(Der Tagesspiegel, 29 January 1980)

MENTAL HEALTH

'Victim of injustice' faces uncertain future

A few years ago, Günter Wallraff wrote a book on the difficulties of getting out of a mental hospital, the destructiveness of life in it and the total loss of contact with reality.

Otto Breuer, 56, is a case in point.

Close to 20 years ago, a judge ordered him committed to a mental hospital on the grounds of his being a "feeble-minded, work-shirking psychopath."

Herr Breuer was institutionalised for 16 years and he would still be there if he had not broken the law.

The people around him laugh at some of the episodes recounted by Breuer. He tells how he broke out so many times in one particular year as to make him an absolute national champion and how one day he was "barred" from the closed section of the insane asylum. He also tells how it came that a prison warden apologised to him.

But most of his reminiscences are no laughing matter.

Having been branded insane and finding himself caught up in the mills of psychiatry, he tells how he was driven to the verge of physical and mental destruction during the 16 years he spent behind the walls of various asylums and why, even now that he is out again,

Frankfurter Rundschau

he still has to live as a social outcast in a rehabilitation centre for vagrants called *Roter Hamm*.

The years of captivity have even more restricted Breuer's chances to make something of his life.

Physically handicapped, he now works in a cleaning gang keeping the courtyard and the adjoining sidewalk of *Roter Hamm* clean.

And since outcasts like Breuer are rarely given a genuine chance, his future can only be termed bleak: the men get an hourly wage of DM2.50 — too little to save and too little to build up a livelihood for themselves.

But then, Otto Breuer never fitted into our social pigeon holes. At school he was one of those children who are constantly made to stand in a corner.

Having spent eight years at school (rarely being promoted from one grade to another), he never quite grasped the three Rs. Caning by teachers and his father was the order of the day.

At 14 he was made to work on a farm.

"Actually, I wanted to become a bricklayer, but no-one wanted me," he says.

So he toiled for a few marks a day until being drafted into the army. His life has always been dominated by others.

Breuer still vividly remembers the immediate post-war years. ("That was the one time I was really free.")

Like so many of the wartime homeless, he wandered through the ravaged country begging or doing odd jobs from time to time.

He was arrested time and again — sometimes for begging and loitering, sometimes because he had no papers and, of course, for occasional petty theft. He does not quite remember how many times he was sent to prison but estimates it at about 21 to 23.

And since he was one of those who missed the boat of our affluent society, he did his first "big job" at 38. It was also his last: in 1961 he broke into a Frankfurt kiosk, stealing coffee, tobacco and cigarettes, and was caught.

A court sentenced him to nine months — which were to turn into 16 years because the judge ordered him committed to a mental home when he came out of prison.

Thumbing Otto Breuer's file, Walter Haider, head of the rehabilitation centre where he now lives, lists the stations of his life in pitiless officialese, coming to the conclusion that in all those years Herr Breuer spent in various mental homes no-one took the trouble to give him a thorough mental checkup and come up with a sound diagnosis.

Herr Haider: "I cannot rid myself of the suspicion that the people in the insane asylums are deliberately kept there as cheap labour."

In the first mental home he was sent to, the doctor asked Herr Breuer "What's brought you here?" But this was pretty much the last time anybody asked him anything.

He went from asylum to asylum, scrubbing floors, feeding the sick, changing the incontinent, emptying bedpans and cleaning toilets and the excrement around them. His wage: half a pack tobacco a week.

In such conditions the will to resist soon fades. Herr Breuer's many discharge applications were rejected — probably because the successive doctors copied the diagnosis of their predecessors.

The "feeble-minded and very aggressive psychopath" remained inside, witnessing the mistreatment of his fellow patients, seeing doctors treating their patients with total lack of interest and listening to the screams of the dying. He shared his cell with sex deviates and drug addicts — usually 30 to a cell.

He heard doctors say: "Now, Breuer, you're the only sensible fellow in this ward, so tell me, what was the matter last night?"

In one of the homes he was permitted to work outside but had to return at night.

Herr Breuer says: "No-one was prepared to explain the absurdity of my being let loose during the day and locked up at night. All they said was 'Otto, don't ask so many questions'."

He stopped asking questions and ran away.

But his freedom was always short lived. The long arm of the law caught up with him time and again and he found himself back inside.

The vicious circle of running a[way], getting caught and being locked [up] again repeated itself over and over.

Breuer says with some pride: "I [ran] away seven times in one year and [I] hold an absolute record."

People in Giessen knew him well b[e]cause he always went to the same p[lace] and even made friends.

The only reason that so many ye[ars] inside did not totally destroy him [was] probably his firm belief that he was nee[d]ed as a worker.

Walter Haider, who has known He[rr] Breuer as a dependable worker for th[e] past two years, attributes his psycholo[gi]cal survival to the man's fortitude.

Herr Breuer: "I never gave up h[ope] no matter how bad things were."

The height of absuridity marking [the] system is the fact that it was a mi[nor] crime, of all things, that gave Breuer [his] freedom: one day he was told by one [of] the asylum administrators to cash [...]

Continued on page 16



Otto Breuer (second from left) sweeping snow in the yard of 'Roter Hamm': thinking of the days ahead? (Photo: Horst Wi...)

New doubts on reform of care system

Plans to reform the psychiatric care system are in jeopardy. And many of those who once cried out for reform now seem to have changed their minds.

What other explanation is there for the opposition in the *Länder* to the recommendations of a special commission on psychiatry?

Because of serious shortcomings in the care of psychiatric cases, Bonn Finance Minister Matthöfer set aside DM400 million for a five-year plan.

Under this would be established model institutions, among them: day clinics, workshops, communal housing, homes for the transition period from life in an institution to reintegration into society and, above all, various forms of outpatient treatment.

The objective was to do away with huge institutions and long-term commitment to them.

In the long run, such reforms would save enormous sums of money. They would also counter the "psychiatrisation" of our society. But many people fail to see this.

One of them is Baden-Württemberg's Finance Minister Robert Gleichauf, who called on his opposite numbers in the *Länder* to reject the federal funds, and, recently, the conference of *Länder* finance ministers accepted Gleichauf's proposal.

But the decision will only have political consequences once the *Länder* prime ministers adopt it.

Even so, there are grounds for concern — the more so since the reasons given by the finance ministers were of a constituional nature (which is not exactly plausible).

They argue that Bonn has no right to intervene financially.

Constitutionally, however, the federal government is entitled to finance model projects and has been doing so for months.

So what are the real reasons for rejecting the gift from Bonn? One reason is evidently the finance ministers' fear of follow-up costs. Another is probably the long tug-of-war between the Labour Ministry (which evidently backs the *Länder*) and the Health Ministry.

MP Walter Picard (CDU), one of the most committed protagonists of reforms, says: "I cannot help feeling that there is an unholy alliance between the Labour Ministry and the finance ministers of the *Länder*."

The third, and probably most important, reason seems to be a lack of understanding for the problems involved and a tug-of-war over which department is to do what, with a resulting loss of interest in the project.

This suspicion seems to be substantiated by the recommendation that w[ent] with the rejection of federal funds: He[rr] Gleichauf said that the *Länder* woul[d] not have to relinquish the money fro[m] Bonn, since the funds could be used f[or] additional hospital financing.

But this would be counter to the rec[om]mendations of the psychiatric com[]mission and would cement the prese[nt] psychiatric system.

It would also mean that many p[a]tients would still be kept in wards f[or] long periods.

But an experiment carried out by t[he] *Land* hospital of Düren shows that [this] need not be so and that psychiatry c[an] be made not only more humane but a[lso] more economical.

Düren stopped admitting new patie[nts] for lack of capacity. The people who h[ad] to be rejected were treated as outpatie[nts] instead.

Now it turns out that they are all g[lad] to have been rejected. Some have ov[er]come their problems others feel t[hat] they are benefiting greatly from outp[a]tient treatment.

It is exactly this outpatient treatm[ent] that has been recommended.

It can only be hoped that the *Län[der]* — if not for humanitarian reasons th[en] for those of economy — will agree to [re]forms in the end.

Katharina Zimmer
(Die Zeit, 1 February 19[80])

SPORT

New York club signs-up Cologne soccer chief

Cologne football club manager Hennes Weisweiler has signed a three-year contract worth over DM2 million to manage Cosmos New York of the North American League.

Weisweiler signed in the exclusive Lancaster Hotel in Paris.

Cosmos captain Franz Beckenbauer, former captain of the German national team, played a part in persuading Weisweiler to sign.

Weisweiler would have liked to stay longer with Cologne but incompatibility with the club chairman was making his position difficult.

"After everything that has happened in the past weeks, I had no choice", said 60-year-old Weisweiler. He was annoyed at the Cologne board's delaying tactics in renewing his contract.

His decision to manage a team in the North American league, which German football association boss Neuberger once referred to as a "tinpot league", came as a shock to the Cologne board of directors.

Kurt Werner, one of the directors, said: "We will now have to think the situation over." The board issued a statement saying that they regretted Herr Weisweiler's irreversible decision.

Insiders say that the poor relations between Weisweiler and club chairman Peter Weiland are the main reason for the change.

At one stage last season Weisweiler was on the point of packing his bags and joining Barcelona FC.

Weisweiler and Weiland had little to say to one another, and in a recent interview with the *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*, Weiland indicated that the club might have a new manager at the beginning of next season.

"The manager should also consider whether the situation here is optimal", he said. To which Weisweiler replied that he could work anywhere; it did not have to be in Cologne.

Weisweiler said after signing on for Cosmos: "I would have liked to stay in Cologne, but there is no relationship of trust and I no longer have a working relationship with the club chairman. I don't need to prove to Weiland that I am a good manager by winning a few games in the next weeks."

Under the circumstances, it looks unlikely that both sides will stick to the agreement that Weisweiler will complete his current contract with Cologne until 30 June. The American season begins at the beginning of March.

Weisweiler sees no problems: "Cosmos have agreed to me completing my contract here. I want Cologne to do as well as possible in the league and the cup."

It remains to be seen whether Weiland also takes this view. He was away on business and not available for comment.

Weisweiler is said to have had contacts with Cosmos for some months. Cosmos made him an offer before the season started, while he was on holiday in Bordeaux with assistant manager Hannes Löhr. He turned the offer down because he believed at the time that his future was with Cologne.

The Americans had already tried to persuade Udo Lattek of Dortmund, Argentinian world cup manager Luis Menotti and the Brazilian Coutinho to manage them.

When these efforts failed, they sent Beckenbauer off to persuade Weisweiler.

They talked before the new year and Beckenbauer came away with the impression that Weisweiler was interested.

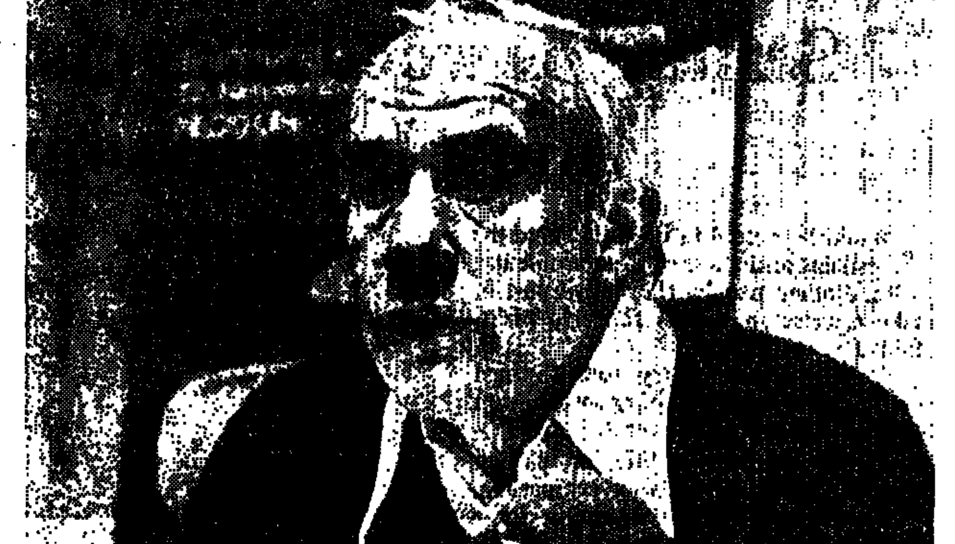
Cosmos club chairman Nesuhi Ertegun arrived in Germany on 26 January and watched the game between Cologne and Dortmund, which Cologne won 4—1.

He offered Weisweiler a salary of DM700,000 per annum. Weisweiler asked for 48 hours to think it over, after which he said yes.

After training on the Monday, Weisweiler flew to Paris to sign.

He said he was looking forward to America; and Cologne have already started looking for a successor.

Horst Müller-Manz
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 January 1980)



Hennes Weisweiler: decision shocked the Cologne board.
(Photo: Wilfried Witters)

Hamburg stay on top of the league

Last season's *Bundesliga* football champions Hamburg SV, have beaten their nearest challengers to stay on top of this season's competition.

Their 3—1 victory over Bayern Munich was on a snow-covered Hamburg pitch.

Watching the game was Tomislav Ilic, manager of Hajduk Split, Hamburg SV's opponents in the quarter finals of the European Cup.

He said: "Hamburg are the favourites and so of course they must be favourites to beat us."

He was impressed by the German side's precise marking system, its skill on the ball and mastery of the difficult conditions.

Hamburg's dominance was largely due to manager Branko Zebec's instructions to mark Munich stars Breitner, Oblak and Rummenigge very tight, not allowing them space to pay.

Hamburg were given another boost by the return of their international defender Manfred Kaltz, out of action since the beginning of January with pneumonia.

Kaltz, who has 32 international caps, did not go on so many of his famed bursts down the right flank but it was his inch-perfect centre which led to the first goal, headed by Jimmy Hartwig in the 61st minute.

Sealed in the last minute

Bayern defender Augenthaler put through his own goal to make it 2—0.

Janzon pulled back a goal for the visitors and then Hamburg striker Hrubesch scored in the last minute to make it 3—1.

The attendance was 61,000 and receipts DM850,000.

After the game, Bayern trainer Pal Csernai criticised the referee for booking Bayern midfielder Paul Breitner. Breitner had protested because he said the Hamburg players were not the regulation 10 yards from the ball, and he waited for them to move back.

Csernai described the referee's decision to show Breitner the yellow card as "total nonsense."

Breitner now automatically misses his team's next game because he has collected four yellow cards this season.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 4 February 1980)



Michael Kopzog
(Photo: Werek)

Young boxer emerges as an Olympic prospect

A 19-year old apprentice fitter from Gelsenkirchen, Michael Kopzog, is the newest star in West German amateur boxing.

Kopzog showed his mettle when he stopped Paul Malone in three rounds in their middleweight bout when the German team thrashed Ireland 18-2 in Münster.

A crowd of 3,000 watched as Malone gave up after being knocked down three times.

And after the fight, Kopzog stayed near the ring watching the rest of the team fight and shouting encouragement.

The tall, short-haired and slightly awkward-looking lad was not at all awed by being in the same team as old hands such as European champion Peter Hussing.

Kopzog was runner-up in the Junior European Championships in 1978. He has twice been German junior champion and last year won the senior title for the first time.

He trains every day; twice a week with national trainer Julian Neuding in Essen and the rest of the time with Fritz Wein, trainer at the Gelsenkirchen Erle Boxing Club.

Wein has another outstanding middleweight prospect on his books in the shape of Rerry Christie.

Wein has been a sporting adviser and father-substitute to Kopzog for years. Kopzog has been boxing since he was 11, when he gave up football.

He is the fourth of six children. His father is dead.

Michael is in his third year as an apprentice fitter. He is self-confident, inside the ring and out and has lost only seven of his 106 fights to date.

"Manfred Zielonka of Düren beat me four times. But I have beaten him in our last two fights and he won't beat me again", he says.

He is equally self-confident about being selected for the Olympic Games.

Kopzog is the youngest member of the Olympic squad. German amateur boxing association selector Birkle reckons that Germany will take 10 boxers to Moscow.

Kopzog must rate as one of the team's outstanding prospects, along with Peter Suckrow, who is trained by ex-German champion Bubi Dieter.

In his first season in the *Bundesliga*, Suckrow beat leading boxers Stefan Gertel from Worms, Roland Gier from Hamburg and Harald Körper from Pforzheim, thereby staking his claim to a place in the Olympic team.

He has been selected for the next international against Wales this month.

Kopzog, Dieter Weinand, Suckrow, Stefan Gertel and Andreas Prox are all up-and-coming youngsters in whom the German ABA has high hopes once the old guard led by Hussing and Rene Weller have hung up their gloves.

Former European championship finalist Peter Gerber, of Bremen, said 10 years ago that amateur boxing in this country was an good as dead.

These youngsters have emphatically proved him wrong.

Claus Mittenzwei/dpa
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 February 1980)

■ FOCUS ON BONN

Sailing or wood-chopping, politicians must keep fit somehow

Politicians need to be fit to stand the strains and stresses of government.

Like other people, they play sport or take exercise in various forms to maintain their condition.

For many, when they have finished giving interviews or writing speeches on Sundays, it is time for exercise.

Sometimes it is sailing, or playing football, working in the gymnasium, swimming, or maybe just going for a walk.

Bonn politicians are surprisingly tight-lipped about how they keep fit.

And many keep away from the limelight, preferring instead to exercise in private, for example in private swimming pools or gardens rather than public pools or parks.

Many use the Bundestag Sports Club or other private clubs.

One civil servant says: "My minister would collapse during cabinet meetings if he did not use his free time for sport."

Konrad Adenauer used to go for long walks, climb stairs and play bowls.

He had a bowling green built in the Palais Schaumburg Park, but it has not been used by his successors.

Chancellor Schmidt is fit, according to the Chancellor's Office. Those close to him say that he does not take enough exercise. When he is in Bonn, he often walks the 300 metres from the Chancellor's Office to his bungalow in the evening.



The Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, helped by his wife, Hannelore, takes a welcome break from the affairs of state. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Schmidt does more for his physical wellbeing at his holiday home on the Brahmsee, his holiday home in Schleswig-Holstein.

Here he goes sailing and chops wood — as ex-Kaiser William II once did in exile.

The difference is that whereas the Kaiser chopped wood for fun, Schmidt does it because he is building a wooden footbridge to his sailing boat.

The tiny swimming pool in the Chancellor's bungalow is no longer used.

And no one uses the swimming pool in the Villa Hammerschmidt which then President, Gustav Heinemann had built.

President Carstens goes gymnastics with his wife, Veronica. His predecessor, Walter Scheel, played golf in Cologne.

The swimming pool in the Bavarian Land government's grounds where Franz Josef Strauss could take his exercise, is now empty.

Strauss's first sporting love is mountain hunting.

Former Shadow Chancellor Rainer Barzel (CDU) swims in the American Embassy Club in the mornings.

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, the minister responsible for sport, is a keen walker and swimmers.

He uses his leisure time to get out into the fresh air. He is a great lover of snow, but does not ski.

His party colleague Ertl not only skis but is the President of the German Skiing Association.

Politicians do not have the time nor the need to show off which is often connected with exclusive sports such as horse riding and golf. They prefer popular sport, especially football.

Defence Minister Apel is a keen footballer and, appropriately, a defender. He plays right half in indoor football matches in Bonn every Thursday.

The Bundestag football team is almost world famous, though it has not played in any world cups.

Its captain is 58-year-old SPD MP Adolf Müller-Emmert. The team is the most active group in the Bundeshaus sports community, which has 1,000 members, including 150 MPs.

It plays every Wednesday and Friday under the supervision of a sports teacher.

Leader of this group is Franz Xaver Geisenhofer, CSU MP and holder of the Golden Sports Award.

The sporting community knows no party distinctions. MPs from all parts of the political spectrum play beside one another. *dpa*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 January 1980)

Continued from page 14

cheque for DM900. He did so and fa... to return to the asylum.

A few days later, he turned himself... to the police and was sentenced to... months. Having served his sentence... was discharged according to regula... and was a free man. That was o... April 1977.

So this is the story of a man wh... cording to social workers of the F... furt Association for Social Instit... which sponsors the rehabilitation c... where he now lives, has "suffered... injustice."

Breuer's future is uncertain. On... he will have to leave the centre to... room for others. There is no comm... housing for people like him and h... no money.

Of the DM20 he earns for an 8-... work day he cannot put a penny a... If he is lucky he will live on welfa... the rest of his life.

The reason why Otto Breuer g... little money is simple: the Welfar... partment, which partly supports t... habilitation centre, collects 40 pe... of revenues from the centre's wor... to reduce its own costs.

There is no improvement in s... says Paul Marx, the manager of... Frankfurt Association for Social Ins... tions. The best that can be hoped for... reduction of the rate paid to the We... Department to 30 per cent.

Society does not feel that it o... something to victims of the system l... Otto Breuer. *Claudia Dillmann*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 January 1980)

The diplomats who just don't see red

French diplomats in Bonn are am... the worst traffic offenders am... the diplomatic corps representat... there. They are noted for their tende... to ignore red ights.

However, the police are powerless t... do anything about it as the diplom... enjoy diplomatic immunity. All they c... do is warn and complain.

Figures issued by the Bonn po... show that Vatican diplomats and dipl... mats from Honduras were only guilty... one traffic offence each last year.

The Bonn Press Office revealed th... the diplomatic corps committed 1,... parking offences last year. The Media... were far and away the worst offend... here, with 569 parking tickets, follo... by the Turks with 332 and the Ame... cans with 278.

Police caught 168 diplomats speed... and 247 going through red lights.

As the Bonn city authorities can... penalise the drivers of diplomatic c... cars, they have no choice but to rem... the Bonn Embassies, via the Bonn M... istry of Foreign Affairs, of the Ge... traffic regulations every three months. *dp...*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 February 1980)

One in ten is a foreigner

Bonn is the most international ci... West Germany, according to th... city's press office. More than 26,000 f... eigners from 131 countries live there.

This means that more than 9 per c... of Bonn residents have a foreign p... port.

There are 5,000 foreign diplom... living in the national capital.

(Die Welt, 4 February 1980)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Former Strauss rival keeps cool as election outlook changes

Bonn Opposition leader Helmut Kohl is outwardly composed about the way that some people are now flocking round the Shadow Chancellor, Franz Josef Strauss, in anticipation of an election win this year.

Kohl himself might have been in Strauss's position, but for two heavy political blows last summer.

Asked about his plans for the future, Kohl, replies: "I have important functions which I enjoy carrying out. Why should I let anything disturb my peace of mind? I am not aiming for new positions. I don't want to be a minister."

Kohl is amused to observe the transformation that has taken place among some members of the CDU/CSU. Only nine months ago all the ambitious talents, crown princes and pretenders in the CDU had more-or-less given up hopes of winning the 1980 general elections and were pinning their hopes on the next election, in 1984.

Then came the transformation at the turn of the year. The reason, in the CDU/CSU's view, was the change of mood following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

But the behaviour of Strauss is also designed to woo even those in the CDU who bitterly resisted his becoming Shadow Chancellor until last summer.

At that time, Kohl suffered two heavy defeats. His party colleagues persuaded him to give up the Chancellorship candidature. Then his candidate, Ernst Albrecht, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, was defeated by Strauss.

No one knows exactly whether Kohl has yet got over these blows. The CSU praise him for his cooperation, though a top CDU man is said to have said that Kohl will only really be happy when Strauss too has been defeated in a general election.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

But there is no proof whatever that this is in fact, Kohl's attitude. All those involved agree that he has been far more relaxed and composed since giving up trying to become "the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany."

And as he has obviously abandoned all ambitions, even his critics now leave him in peace.

However Kohl, who will be 60 shortly, need not fear being pushed off the political stage. On the contrary, he is the one CDU politician whom Strauss cannot ignore if he should become Chancellor.

There is all kinds of speculation in the CDU/CSU about possible ministerial permutations, but the only realistic one is a Strauss-Kohl duo, with Strauss as Chancellor and Kohl Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor.

The argument among leading CDU men is that Kohl is the only man who can win the support of all wings of the CDU.

As his majority in the event of victory would probably be slim, Strauss would need all the CDU and CSU votes for the election of the Chancellor in Parliament.

In his speeches and essays Kohl has increasingly turned towards foreign policies. However, there is at least one party colleague of his who would very much like to be Foreign Minister.

It is at any rate definite that Walther Leisler Kiep, at present Minister of Finance in the Lower Saxony government, would like to return to Bonn.

Kiep and Strauss met recently when Kiep gave a lecture to the CSU in Kreuth. Kiep came away talking of a completely new Franz Josef Strauss, who, he said, had listened, asked questions, asked for advice.

Others have said that at this meeting Strauss told Kiep that there would be a revolt in the CDU and CSU if, in the event of becoming Chancellor, he appointed Kiep Foreign Minister, as many still resented the fact that Kiep and three other CDU MPs had voted for the Moscow Treaty. Kiep denies that Strauss said this.

Strauss does not want Kiep as his Foreign Minister, and the CDU have let it be known that they would not accept Strauss's CSU colleague Zimmermann as *Foreign Minister, so it looks as if Kohl* could be offered the post without lifting a finger.

Strauss would have other problems appointing top people to other ministerial posts. Ideally, he would like to appoint Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg as Finance Minister and Vice-Chancellor — at least according to one version which is obviously out to hurt Kohl.

Stoltenberg however has promised his voters that he intends to stay in Kiel. The other CDU guest in Kreuth, Kurt Biedenkopf, could reckon with a minister's job, probably that of Minister of Economic Affairs.

However, if the CDU wins the *Land* election in North Rhine-Westphalia, Biedenkopf would become Minister of Economic Affairs in Düsseldorf, and if it loses, he is tipped to become leader of the *Land* CDU.

Manfred Wörner is hoping for the Defence Minister's portfolio, but here the CSU may want their floor leader and deputy party leader Zimmermann to get the job.

And Alfred Dregger, according to party colleagues, is more interested in becoming Defence Minister than Education Minister.

And so we have a curious situation in which the people Strauss would like to appoint have other commitments while there are a number of candidates in the CDU whom Strauss does not consider suitable.

This may be one reason why Strauss has abandoned his original plan to name a "Shadow Cabinet" in May. Instead, he will only name an election team in which all prominent CDU/CSU politicians will be represented. *Klaus Dreher*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 February 1980)

New trend in cross party appointments

It came as a surprise to many that former CDU Shadow Chancellor Rainer Barzel was appointed Coordinator of Franco-German Cooperation in succession to the late Carlo Schmidt.

Barzel has always been interested in foreign policy, European policy in particular. Furthermore, he is on excellent terms with French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet.

But why did the SPD/FDP government appoint Barzel who is, after all, a member of the Opposition? Certainly many in the government parties would have been honoured to accept the appointment.

There is doubtless reason and method in offering the post to a member of the Opposition.

Helmut Schmidt has long been thinking about ways of returning to an above-party personnel policy in certain areas.



Rainer Barzel (Photo: Sven Simon)

This was most plain when he charged Lower Saxony Minister Walther Leisler Kiep with the organisation of special aid for Turkey.

The longer he is in office, the more a head of government tends to look beyond party horizons.

Foreign Minister Genscher has long done this. Foreign policy is easier where when there are as many areas as possible of agreement with the Opposition. There is no controversy whatever between Government and Opposition about special relations between Germany and France.

The appointment of Barzel demonstrates also the need of all parties to come together in times of crisis and jointly bear responsibility. *Peter Hopen*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 2 February 1980)

Schmidt's task: making the work fit the time

Helmut Schmidt's style of government is not that of the lonely decision maker. He likes decisions to be made in small groups.

He is sceptical both about the often long parliamentary procedures and those of his own party.

Schmidt expressed his worry about being able to go on governing in face of all the sessions and meetings when he told the parliamentary SPD: "85 per cent of one's time and energy is spent explaining and defending decisions one has taken in a thousand democratic bodies.

"One only has 5 per cent of the time to think and make decisions. The rest of the time is spent with paperwork. And these three components constitute what is called government."

He has since increased the amount of time he spends thinking and deciding and cut the time he spends in a thousand democratic bodies. Increasingly he seeks advice in small groups or small circles within the Cabinet; the worldwide giver of advice as a seeker of advice.

The official institutions of parliament and even of government he considers not only too big but too indiscreet.

In times of crisis Schmidt prefers the cabinet style of the individual talk or confidential fireside discussion in which he expects openness.

He has been cultivating this form of government by discussion particularly during the Afghanistan crisis. Here he is not only following Anglo-Saxon models. He has also learnt from Italian politicians.

One of the standard features of Italian crisis management is the celebrated consultations between the President and active or retired politicians. The people find out about these consultations and this slightly lessens their fears.

Schmidt's consultations are part of his crisis management. Following the Afghan crisis, he held talks with former Chancellors Brandt and Kiesinger and former Foreign Ministers Scheel and Schröder.

Foreign Minister Genscher, as Vice-Chancellor, was also present. Their talks lasted from seven in the evening till midnight.

Then Schmidt spent two hours the next day in talks with Strauss, Kohl and Zimmermann. The following day he spoke to leading SPD trade union leaders Vetter, Loderer, Kluncker, Hauenschild and to leading SPD politicians Bahr, Wehner and Wischnewski.

Party national secretary Porzner and the new Minister in the Chancellor's Office Huonker, were also present.

Then came the Aspen-Kissinger Round Table Conference at Schloss Gymnich. Apart from these discussions, Schmidt often seeks advice from individuals. Richard Löwenthal, one of the leading SPD theoreticians, and Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker are among them.

As he regards full cabinet meetings as too unwieldy for these purposes, he often holds discussions within the Chancellor's Office with Schüler, Huonker and Bölling, or invites Foreign Minister Genscher and Defence Minister Apel for impromptu discussions after cabinet meetings.

Schmidt's style of government is marked by reserve towards the wheels of parliamentarianism which grind too slowly and publicly for his liking.

His style of government on the whole tends more towards the elitist than the egalitarian. *Helmut Herles*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 February 1980)

■ THE PARTIES

Confident Dregger re-elected in Hesse with a massive majority

Alfred Dregger has been re-elected as chairman of the Hesse CDU as was expected. He polled a massive 392 votes out of the 405 cast at the party congress in Giessen.

Of course he was always confident that the party would give him what it owes him — or what it believes it owes him.

"I'm the chairman and undisputed in this office, so there can be no two ways about it — I'll remain chairman," he said before the congress.

The congress was attended by Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss (CSU). Its slogan was the evergreen "We are Coming" (the same as in 1970) and the leading roles were also the same.

Dregger conceded that he had performed no miracles during his term of office, but said that there was no reason for resignation over the election this year if everybody toed the line.

The general view was that there was no alternative to Dregger.

Other names were mentioned

But it is doubtful whether he is as undisputed as it appeared on the surface.

Doubts were expressed behind the scenes and other names were mentioned quietly.

Still, Herr Dregger enjoys much praise for his work. The question, however, is whether this is a firm enough foundation to build on. His re-election is no indication.

Dregger stands and falls with Franz Josef Strauss, whom he calls the most capable CDU/CSU politician and whose unwavering supporter he is.

Dregger has turned the necessity of trying to be (politically) the spitting

Alfred Dregger
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

image of Strauss — "There is a certain element of tragedy in this," says his personal assistant Günther Reichert — into a virtue.

If Dregger is to identify himself with Strauss he wants to do so without any ifs and buts.

Under the cloak of the election campaign and the avowals of loyalty that go with it, he keeps his master's back covered, and in this role he is unbeatable.

The question whether the mere fact *that Strauss is the Shadow Chancellor* gives him full authority to draft guidelines is undebatable for Dregger.

"The only thing that matters is what Strauss wants to do," and everything else takes second place.

It is in keeping with this attitude that Dregger shrugs off the concept whereby the North German CDU should have a somewhat more differentiated programme.

He has no understanding whatsoever for such ideas — he does not even consider it worth talking about.

Dregger stands behind Strauss to the point where even his own career becomes secondary. Though he probably cares about what might become of him if Strauss wins, he is not pressing him for anything.

Says Dregger: "I told Strauss that I'm 100 per cent behind him. I realise that he needs a certain scope of decision and I'm prepared to make my own interests secondary."

Alfred Dregger knows that he will be given one of the better portfolios. It is unimportant to him which.

He leaves this to Herr Strauss to decide, saying that he has enough young and talented people do draw on.

Regardless whether he is given the Foreign Office or Interior or Defence or Economic Affairs and/or Finance, he is ready to shoulder any one of them.

Logically, he tells himself that Strauss cannot commit himself at this point because this would paralyse the fighting spirit.

And Strauss expressed himself in roughly the same terms in Giessen, saying that he was not prepared to mention names at this stage. In fact, he was not even willing to commit himself and say that Dregger would be one of the inner circle.

Strauss: "Dregger is a multipurpose weapon that can be used on many fronts."

It is quite possible that the Shadow Chancellor's right hand will have to content himself with one of the less important portfolios — in fact, it is likely.

Insiders say that the Foreign Office has already been earmarked for Leisler Kiep and Interior for Zimmermann.

Defence could well to to Manfred Wörner and Finance/Economic Affairs to Biedenkopf.

And then there is still a joker in the pack which will have to be played if Helmut Kohl decides to seek a cabinet post.

Dregger's reticence is thus justified unless he wants to run the risk of not getting the portfolio he bids for.

Does this mean that he is not being adequately rewarded for his unwavering commitment? He would certainly risk exactly this happening if he were publicly to state a preference.

Herr Dregger knows that he has to be modest if he is not to wind up empty handed.

The danger is considerable, the alternatives being winning with Strauss or being made responsible for defeat.

If Franz Josef Strauss fails to win the absolute majority it could spell the political end for Dregger. If, on the other hand, Strauss makes it, Dregger will see his concept confirmed and would at least stand another chance in Hesse.

Risk of losing out in a reorientation

Without being thus buttressed, he would probably fall prey to a general reorientation and would have to yield to a man like Walter Wallmann who has been gaining ground.

Though none of these undercurrents became visible in Giessen, ripples could be felt.

Officially, Alfred Dregger is still ahead, but Frankfurt's Mayor Wallmann is already on his marks. Perhaps he will be in the running for the last round which is the most promising.

The scene is still dominated by pleasantries and mellifluous phrases, but these are formulated so that they can be reversed.

Dregger says of Wallmann that "he is the nation's best CDU mayor" and Wallmann says of Dregger that "we shall gain the final objective with him" ... under whose leadership?

Hans-Joachim Noack

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 January 1980)

Record poll for premier of North Rhine-Westphalia

North Rhine-Westphalia's Prime Minister, Johannes Rau, has been nominated at the top of the list on the SPD card for the May election to the State assembly.

His 285 out of 287 votes is higher than any top SPD candidate since the war.

Places two to eight went to the North Rhine-Westphalia cabinet members and the SPD floor leader in the State Assembly, Dieter Haak.

The party congress, at Bochum, was addressed by Helmut Schmidt and Rau. The Chancellor's remarks on environment policy set new signals.

Though environmental protection is a "deadly serious business" it can still not be the "first commandment governing our lives."

The Chancellor went on to say that "a high rate of employment cannot be achieved through environment policy."

If we are actually to give coal priority, he said, we would have to accept certain detrimental effects on the environment.

It was pointless to waste four years before issuing a licence for a coal-operated power station only to provide a study to substantiate opposition to it.

Schmidt criticised the opposition for wanting to weaken the Trade Union Federation.

In his criticism, levelled primarily at North Rhine-Westphalia's CDU chairman, Kurt Biedenkopf, the Chancellor said: "These famous CDU professors don't know what they're talking about. They're too intelligent to be wise."

He went on to say that he was proud that "we are subsidising coal year after year."

If this had not been done for years, we would now have to fear for our energy supply, he concluded.

Herr Schmidt praised the North Rhine-Westphalian government for its energy policy, particularly its willingness to establish an interim dump for nuclear waste. He also thanked the government for having kept open the option for a fast breeder in Kalkar.

Schmidt said that the CDU/CSU stood on thin ice with their contention that the Chancellor had no backing from his party.

He said: "Never before in Germany's post-war history has a party so openly and carefully discussed its policy and arrived at clear decisions."

As to the election prospects of the "Greens" (environmentalists), the chancellor said that, like all other splinter groups, they would get considerably less than 3 per cent in the Bundestag election.

Herr Rau called on his fellow party members to remind the voters of all the improvements that have taken place in that state during the 13 years of the Social-Liberal coalition.

When the SPD/FDP took over from the CDU in 1966 the coal mines in that *Land* were dying and barbed wire fences still separated protestant and Catholic children in schoolyards.

What mattered for the 11 May election, he said, was to ensure that the *Land* does not revert to the conditions of those years.

But the election would also decide whether "the Bundesrat would have a two-thirds majority with which to block Helmut Schmidt's policy.

"We must prevent people who have no concept and contradict each other daily from governing this state."

He also said that if Biedenkopf wanted to do away with subsidies he would have to answer the question whether



Johannes Rau
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

saving towards a home should no longer be promoted, whether the DM1bn now spent to subsidise coal should be struck and whether low income housing construction should come to an end.

He asked: "What sort of rents does Biedenkopf consider tolerable for the skilled worker and the small office clerk?"

Stefan Klein

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 February 1980)

■ THE MEDIA

The BBC, seen through a German lens

A fierce and highly political debate is taking place in West Germany about the future of this country's TV and radio system and whether or not private, independent TV and radio stations should be allowed.

Supporters and opponents of independent TV and radio often refer approvingly or disapprovingly, depending on the viewpoint, to the competition between the BBC and the independent TV and radio in Great Britain.

One factor which must be borne in mind in such comparisons is the special position of the BBC. The Prussians used to have a saying that "he who swears by Prussia's flag gives up all other goods."

One might imagine this attitude is long since dead. But there is still a trace of it in the way BBC reporters and employees think of the BBC, the British Broadcasting Corporation.

And the organisation regards itself as the mother of all respectable radio organisations throughout the world and as the best television and radio corporation.

Of course there are complaints about the corporation's size, the bureaucracy, and even a falling-off in quality, but BBC men still regard their job as more than just a job, almost as a way of life.

Reporters and producers do occasionally leave, to join independent television, which pays more.

But this is something that "is not really done," because the BBC does not see itself as comparable with the ITV. It is not just an institution, it is part of the British way of life — and this is how the British public also sees it.

When a BBC correspondent is expelled from a country, for example, India, the restoration of the status quo becomes a matter of British foreign policy — because the BBC is part of Britain's substance, its greatness.

The BBC regards itself as one of the pillars of British society, like Parliament, the Crown, the Church of England, the legal system, the army, Oxford and Cambridge Universities and the Civil Service. And polls show that it is more influential than these institutions.

And so any analysis of the British system as a possible model for the reform of the West German broadcasting system must take into account the myth and the ethos of the BBC, which was founded in 1927. The BBC is the model, the standard — also for the independent broadcasting companies.

The BBC, with its two television channels (BBC 2 corresponds roughly to the German Third TV channel), its four national radio programmes, its 20 local radio stations and its (incomparable) overseas service, is a public corporation like German TV, financed solely by television and radio licence fees.

Independent television (which has one channel at the moment) is considered a typical commercial TV system, but it differs considerably from its American and Italian counterparts and is regarded by many supporters of private television in this country as a model worthy of imitation.

The 15 private companies in the ITV are not simply left to their own devices and the dictates of commerce but are answerable to a controlling body, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) which has considerable influence on the programme content and the advertising of the 19 independent radio stations and 15 private TV companies.

There are strict limits to the shares newspaper publishers can hold in these companies.

Freedom of speech and expression is so taken for granted that it is not even mentioned in the contracts between the state and the TV and radio companies, both the BBC and the IBA.

The British also have their own way of setting up these organisations. No one in the BBC hierarchy is elected — neither the 12 governors appointed by the Queen and therefore by the government, nor the Director General, who is appointed by the governors. (The body of governors corresponds roughly to the West German Radio Council).

The governors do not represent parties or other interest groups. They are 12 independent citizens, chosen because of their independence.

Such a body may seem suspect to sceptical Germans, but in England this system is normal and highly regarded. Royal Commissions, whose job is to examine critically public institutions, are formed in the same way. And every 12 years, a Royal Commission looks into the running of the BBC and the ITV.

The structure of the independent ITV is different, but no less hierarchical. The Independent Broadcasting Authority has 11 members, appointed by the Home Secretary.

The IBA itself has a purely supervisory function and does not produce programmes itself. Programmes are produced by the 15 regional commercial television companies — 13 for the provinces, and two for London, one for weekday and one for weekend programmes.

All 15 companies have to provide a and current affairs service.

The IBA has considerable power. It alone has the power to grant licences to TV companies and it controls advertising and programmes. The companies have to have their programmes approved by the IBA, which also has a coordinating function.

All 15 companies hve to provide a programme for the entire country, but this allows considerable space for local programmes.

This system acts as a barrier against poor quality programmes (the law requires "programmes of high quality") and against uncontrolled advertising; for example a committee of 15 specialist doctors checks the accuracy of all advertising for drugs and medicines.

Only seven minutes of advertising per hour are allowed — and incidentally the advertisements are often very intelligent and amusing.

They are not shown en bloc as here, but during and between the programmes.

There are widespread fears in West Germany that private TV companies would produce programmes "designed primarily to act as vehicles for advertising" (Karl-Günther von Hase, director general of the ZDF, the Second German Television Channel).

This has so far not happened in the case of the British ITV, because the state did not hesitate to impose strict controls to prevent it.

Sponsor advertising, the main evil of American television, is banned. The laws insist on high quality of programmes and there are supervisory bodies to ensure this.

All representatives of interest groups, including the political parties, are kept off the supervisory bodies. At the same time, TV journalists, as in the BBC, are forbidden to show political partiality. A British programme presenter who appeared on the platform at a party conference would get a letter of dismissal the next day.

The British system shows that the quality of the independent TV programme depends solely on political will.

In the British case, the state does not exercise direct influence, entrusting supervision to an independent body: no one in the IBA or the BBC is in a position to tell curious journalists what parties the governors of the BBC and the member of the corresponding IBA bodies belong to.

Nobody knows because nobody is interested — and also because the question is considered highly inappropriate.

Control of programmes and advertising is surprisingly tight and detailed. The main principle is that of high programme quality and that no programme should offend decency and good taste or encourage lawlessness and disorder.

But within these limitations there is considerable freedom: strong language is allowed if "it fits the context." The same applies to the treatment of sex, which also requires "tact and discretion." Protection of children is also very important.

The programme guidelines fill 36 large pages and advertising guidelines 18.

Indirect influence by advertisers is

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ruled out because the chairman, his deputy and the 11 other members of the IBA are not allowed to have any economic connections with the advertising business or advertising generally, nor any connection with the programme production of the 15 private TV companies or commercial radio and TV technology.

To translate this into German terms, this would mean that no member of a radio or television council would be allowed to make decisions on the purchase of technical equipment if he held shares in a company manufacturing this equipment.

There are 11 rules on advertising for alcohol: no actor may look younger than 25, no persons commanding the loyalty of youngsters — e.g., footballers or pop stars, are allowed to appear. The advertisement must not show rounds being bought, nor give the impression that drinking leads to success in life.

But all these rules and regulations would be no use if British TV, after a phase in which independent TV set its sights lower than the BBC, did not aim for very high quality.

There are several reasons for this, not least the very often elite educational background of the programme producers — it is not only Prime Ministers who go to Eton and Oxford.

"It is just as important to give great pleasure to the few as to give a little pleasure to the many."

But even British television has its faults. It is insular and does not provide enough information about what is hap-

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■ ENERGY

Boost for new heating systems and some bizarre frugalities

The Germans are a thorough lot – sometimes to the point of self-destruction. There was the man recently who died in his bathtub because he wanted to save precious energy. He hermetically sealed the door and window of his bathroom.

Sure enough, no heat escaped, but no air could enter either. It took his gas boiler only a few minutes to use up all the oxygen ... he no longer has to worry about his heating bill.

The gourmet magazine *essen & trinken* in a recent issue seriously posed the question: "Can eating a stew replace heating?"

Dietician Professor Walter Feldheim of Kiel University came up with the following answer: "In a way, yes. The heat the human body creates after eating escapes to the environment via the skin. So if you invite a great number of people for dinner they should be able to heat the dining room."

Drivers and passengers of express buses notice these days that private cars keep tailgating buses at speeds over 110 kph, travelling in the lee of the bus to save fuel.

This nerve-wracking way of driving can easily reduce fuel consumption by two to three litres per 100 kilometers – but it can also cost the motorist his neck if the bus driver has to step on the brakes suddenly.

Not quite the right image

All this could create the impression that a whole nation is hell-bent on saving energy, as if the latest oil shock had finally transformed people who now know but one aim: to cope with the challenge of Opec.

But this is not so. Granted, the doubling of the crude price last year, making the price of oil 10 times what it was in 1973, has certainly caused businessmen, consumers and the state to react. But the new trend towards thriftiness is still to come. For the time being, the public is only confused.

In fact, even our policy makers are still disagreed on the course to steer.

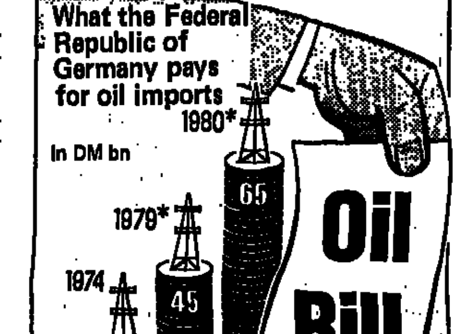
If Helmut Schlesinger, the new Bundesbank vice-president, is right, business will now have to gird its loins for a frosty period.

But Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer disagrees. Speaking in Düsseldorf, he put the unorthodox view that the steep rise in oil prices would not lead to stagnation and added unemployment but to growth and employment. He argued that rising oil and energy costs would lead to additional investment.

After all, he said, it is twice as profitable today than it was seven years ago to invest in insulation, remote heating, heat exchange pumps, fuel saving automobiles, public transport and the exploitation of natural energy sources.

Economising alone cannot induce more economic growth. On the contrary, thrift means reduced sales and, in extreme cases, bankruptcy.

All this can only be prevented by the prosperity created by changed attitudes, by making a virtue out of necessity and



turning the shortage into a booming business.

Small wonder, then, that the manufacturers of oil tanks have been complaining about empty order books since mid-1979. In the second half of that year, sales of fibreglass tanks dropped by 40 to 50 per cent and the trend continues. Says the Tank Manufacturers Association President Wilhelm Isenburg: "People don't want oil tanks anymore."

Business with large steel tanks for industry is also stagnating. The only reason that this line of business has not yet collapsed is that the industrial consumers are stockpiling oil. But there is an end of this in sight, and the decline of sales is already programmed.

Gas, which is much cheaper and usually follows oil price increases with a certain lag, has made tank manufacturers a recession-bound branch of business – but it has also made them inventive.

The Rau Company in Dettenhausen (Württemberg), one of this country's largest tank manufacturers, has developed a new heating system which operates without oil or gas and is to be presented this spring.

The invention, which is to hike the company's sales figures, is essentially an energy roof complete with heat storage and a heat exchange pump.

The new system is to be manufactured in the plants that have hitherto been producing oil tanks and in a new plant now being built.

Additional engineers have been hired for further development work.

The Elco Corporation, in Ravensburg, is also headed for further growth. The company, one of this country's major oil and gas burner producers, is experiencing an unprecedented boom. Orders for gas burners have risen by 300 per cent.

The service branch of the company has also shown a growth rate of 20 per cent since the latest drastic oil price increases.

One company representative says: "The customers now understand that a well-adjusted burner saves a lot of money."

Manufacturers of coal burning stoves are also in for a boom. They cannot keep up with orders.

Buderus, the leading company in this sector, anticipates sales this year to top 120,000 units, more than twice last year's figure.

Says a company spokesman: "Many customers buy a stove and keep it in the basement for a rainy day."

Buderus introduces its new line at the Cologne Domestic Appliances Fair, "Domotechnika", this month. One of the new models has been designed as a wood burning stove.

And since customers are prepared to pay for security, prices will be increased. The company justifies this with rising cast iron prices.

Business with tile stoves and open fireplaces is also booming, with delivery times of up to two years.

Fireplaces, once the status symbol of rich houseowners, are now being bought as a precaution against an oil shortage that will paralyse the central heating system.

Some 150,000 fireplaces were installed last year alone and the demand for them is rising notwithstanding their price tag of between DM5,000 and DM12,000.

Another company now doing a flourishing business is the Walter Kroll Company, in Kirchberg (Württemberg) which specialises in energy systems operating on waste.

The company's stoves working on waste lubricating oil, of which only 60 were sold in 1963, have become best sellers. 10,000 were sold last year.

This is not surprising since these stoves can get their fuel at virtually zero cost from filling stations and garages.

Growth in the automobile indus[try], on the other hand, has come to an end.

Sales, which last year amounted to well over DM100bn, will fall by 10 per cent this year. And what the future will bring will depend entirely on the industry's ability to adapt.

As prices at the filling stations soared again only a few weeks ago, and as Ford and Opel had to introduce short-time work for their larger models due to slack sales, the Volkswagen subsidiary Audi introduced Europe's heaviest front drive limousine, the Audi 200.

The Audi 200 and many other models made by the competition show that the five-year development time for new models cannot be reduced by much, no matter how hard the manufacturers try.

As a result, the cars today praised as miracles of fuel economy were designed at least five years ago. All that is new about them is the advertising slogan.

The latest price increases at filling stations have made the Germans – like other nations before them – discover the economical five-gear drive. But only few such cars are actually on the market. BMW has introduced the new drive in all its models while Mercedes and Ford lag behind.

Opel and VW provide the new drive only in their top models equipped with the heaviest engines.

The booming sales of Japanese, French and Italian standard cars with

DIE ZEIT

five-gear drives will soon force German industry to follow suit.

As a result, sub-contractors manufacturing the new gears are in for mammoth sales. The Getrag Company, which supplies BMW and Opel, can no longer cope with demand and is planning to extend its production capacity and hire additional staff.

Prospects generally are rosy. Until recently, only one in five buyers opted for the new drive. But Getrag's Günther Trabert expects that one in two will do so before year's end – and that notwithstanding the heavy extra price charged by the automobile industry.

The manufacturers of insulating materials are also benefiting from the oil shortage. Retailers have delivery times of up to five weeks despite the fact that most manufacturers are working with additional shifts.

Recozell, in Westphalia, would love to enlarge its production capacity, but it is

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pening in Europe. No British television viewer ever gets to see a programme describing what life is really like in West Germany or Switzerland. Coverage of Europe is only intensive in times of crisis, and then the viewers get too much of a good thing.

News programmes are technically good, relaxed, and no respecters of persons in the choice of what is newsworthy – no government minister automatically gets featured simply because he has spoken.

But the wide range of the BBC is a myth justified only by the excellent coverage of the famous World Service.

British television is less political than German TV in a double sense. The number of political programmes is far smaller than here and they have a completely different atmosphere.

The BBC ...

It is no accident that the turgid concept of "controversial discussion" does not really exist in English but as a result political programmes rarely get their teeth into the meaty subjects.

There has yet to be a ruthless critical analysis of the antiquated structure of the British trade unions.

The finances of the court and indeed the Royal Family as a whole are taboo. And the continuing saga of spy scandals simply cries out for a ruthless sorting out of the old boy network, the network of connections between old boys of certain public schools and Oxford and Cambridge which seems to be able to survive every catastrophe.

The programme makers stick instead to a less risky approach: political programmes stick to the facts, and present them with scrupulous impartiality even when they are controversial. As a result tensions between TV and politics are not as great in the United Kingdom as here.

One German television correspondent said that West Germany was far superior when it came to the presentation of the hard reality of life here.

But British television is more human, takes people's hobbies and sporting interests into account, devoting hours of air time to coverage of cricket and snooker.

This may not always be "socially relevant" – a much-used term in the present German debate – but it is refreshing that this does not bother programme producers one bit.

Thilo Bode

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 February 1980)

■ BUSINESS

Burnt fingers, big profits, in paper deals with 'ghost commodity'

The gold fever of the past few weeks has now given way to chaos and confusion.

Price fluctuations within hours from US$850 to US$580 an ounce make gold speculation a dangerous business.

It was primarily the two major producers, South Africa and the USSR, who saw to it that gold was in short supply.

When it seemed as if gold would go through the roof, small investors queued up to buy in the hope of making a killing.

They stormed the gold desks of the banks until the last of the Krugerrands, the most popular gold coin, was sold.

Now, they find it difficult to get rid of their presumed hedge against inflation. Bankers make a point of exhaustively testing the coins before parting with cash – at the price of the moment.

A downward trend towards the US$500 mark, and thus a reversal of the buying hysteria, seems already programmed because the American Commodity Exchange in New York, the motor of the world-wide buying spree, has meanwhile pulled the emergency brake by drastically raising the margin for futures deals.

Most of these futures deals are a pure gamble: a buyer who today enters a contract to take delivery of a commodity at a future date does not actually want the goods.

All he wants is to profit from rising prices until due date by selling his claim.

The seller, on the other hand, speculating on a bearish market, hopes that prices will go down and enable him to buy the commodity again at cheaper than he sold it.

Since no-one actually wants to complete the deal and since, in many cases, this is not possible anyway, buyer and seller simply gamble on the development of prices.

Gold is thus traded as a ghost commodity: the contracts are entered in the books of the brokers and exist only on paper.

In fact, the entire annual production of South Africa thus changed hands

SONNTAGS BLATT

within a mere week. The actual and invariable beneficiaries of futures deals are the brokers.

Ninety per cent of the small investors, on the other hand, to cash in by operating on margin, i.e. a down payment of 10 per cent. This means that a 10 per cent price increase will make them a 100 per cent profit.

But, by the same token, if the price drops by only 10 per cent they will have lost every penny of the money invested.

Those who speculated on falling prices since the beginning of this year panicked because, for every dollar the gold price rose, they lost US$100 per contract.

The more those speculating on falling prices had to buy to fill their contractual obligations, the more they drove the prices upward.

Those who had speculated on rising prices got richer by the hour. In other words, what the speculators who were hoping for falling prices lost was gained by those speculating on rising quotations.

And their greed was only heightened as prices soared and some US$20bn to US$30bn changed hands within a very short time – though only on paper.

Speculation on the silver futures market was even more hectic. There, the oil billionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt, together with an oil sheikh, bought a large portion of the futures contracts and now wants to demand delivery of the goods in the full knowledge that the volume of the contracts by far exceeds actual silver stocks.

The Commodity Exchange (Comex) has therefore put a stop to all new futures deals and imposed other restrictions.

And since the brokers have drastically increased the margin, futures deals are losing in impetus. The question now is: when will actual economic factors gain the upper hand again?

As things stand, no-one knows the true value of gold and silver. These precious metals pay no dividends, and there are no reliable yardsticks as with other forms of investment.

Prices are governed by the myth of eternal value and by fear of a world crisis in which only gold and silver would retain their market value.

It seems that it will be the small investors and speculators rather than industry who will dominate future price developments, leaving a great deal of scope for price manipulations to the gold producers South Africa and Soviet Union.

In the past few years, the gold lobby has been successful in profiting from increasing inflation rates and thwarting the central banks who wanted to demonetise gold.

But re-assessment of currency reserves on the basis of the latest gold price developments is illusory since this would depend on finding an actual buyer at current prices.

Lack of demand could spell trouble for the precious metals market should there be economic setbecks.

Not only would potential buyers be reluctant, but more and more people holding gold would try to turn it into cash. It remains to be seen whether the oil sheikhs, cited time and again as potential buyers by the gold lobby, will really convert their petrodollars into metals yielding no dividends.

As with any other commodity, the value of gold depends on what people are prepared to pay for it. And, even in times of crisis, this could be considerably less than today.

Astute investors are not swayed by the hysteria created by the gold lobby.

Instead, they compare the real potential for gold price increases with other investment opportunities offering both dividends and appreciation.

In the long run, these are likely to prove the best yardsticks for investment decisions.

Alfred Tholen

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 3 February 1980)

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unable to get the necessary machines due to the enormous demand.

So, every oil price increase kindles the boom still further in this line of industry. But at the same time, the greater the sales the greater the industry's need for oil since most of these materials are oil-based.

The price of the raw material (polystyrol) has doubled in the past 12 months and now is DM2.40 a kilo.

But profits rose even more steeply. Notwithstanding the high price of insulating material, insulation is still worthwhile.

The steep price increases for crude have hit the chemicals industry in another sector as well: its much used raw material naphtha rose from DM275 a ton in 1978 to DM640 today.

There, the added cost cannot as easily be passed on to the consumer as with insulating materials.

It is therefore not surprising that Europe's biggest boat show in Düsseldorf demonstrated a new trend: wooden boats are in again and are proving a formidable competition for the fibreglass variety. But then they have always been more attractive.

The old materials are in again in other areas as well. Last year, Germany's last coal-operated ship, a buoy tender, went to the wrecker's yard. Now, naval architects are again considering coal-fired boilers for modern freighters. An Australian shipping company has already ordered two of them.

While the high price of oil has created new growth opportunities for alternative technologies, Bonn politicians go on guzzling the stuff with the new car models just allocated to cabinet members and their state secretaries.

Their official cars now have 191 hp instead of 170 hp engines.

Appeals for oil thriftiness, like the recent brochure issued by the Economic Affairs Ministry which says "economising begins when you buy the car", evidently apply only to the man-in-the-street.

Heinz Blüthmann

(Die Zeit, 1 February 1980)

Opposition keeps at bay consumer demand for longer shopping hours

Every time a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the shopping centres of big cities are jammed with people on the Friday.

The reason is simple: To get a long weekend, they take the Friday off and use it to shop.

This seems an unreasonable attitude because regular working hours have become shorter and shorter over the years, permitting everybody to do his shopping during the week until the mandatory closing time for retailers.

But this does not seem enough for

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many consumers. The rigid official business hours may seem enough for day-to-day requirements, but they are not enough for more important purchases by the family as a whole.

Perhaps these buyers are also looking for a common purchasing experience which the retailers are trying to promote. But this requires a lot of time for comparative shopping.

Many a vacationer abroad, for instance, is only a compulsive buyer because he has more time than at home to stroll around the shopping areas and pick and choose.

Consumer and housewives' associations, supported by politicians (mostly those of the FDP) have repeatedly tried to bring about a relaxation of Germany's strict regulations governing retail business hours.

So far, they have always foundered on retailers' associations and the trade unions, who favour the present arrangements.

One of the retailers' arguments is that they want to protect their staff from arduous working hours.

But why should the employees of the retail trade be protected from something that is taken for granted in industry, the railroad system, the postal authority and many other branches of business?

There, many employees work unusual hours because they are compensated by additional time off or bonuses.

And why not give all those women a chance who are desperately looking for part-time work?

Another argument of the defenders of the present system is that longer opening hours would lead to higher prices. But how are they to know that the consumer is not willing to pay for his being able to shop at leisure after working hours?

Then there is the paradoxical situation that many retailers do not even make use of the opening hours permitted by law. This is particularly so in the suburbs where shops close for a lunch break and call it a day at 6 p.m. (though allowed to stay open until 6.30).

On Saturdays they close at 1 p.m. (instead of 2) and this applies even to the once-a-month long Saturday when they may stay open until 6 p.m.

On top of this, many retailers close completely for several weeks a year for holidays.

There is no such thing as *the* retailer. Their interests vary depending on the place and type of business. So why not risk a major test instead of arguing back and forth?

Why not give one city area special permission to extend its business hours.

A city of 100,000 should permit all businesses to stay open until 10 p.m. on two days a week – and that for two years. The response – either way – could put an end to the dispute. This is the more important since we are already faced with another dispute of a similar nature. The catering industry union has demanded that pubs and restaurants close at 11 p.m. – for the sake of the staff, what else?

Gudrun Stümpfli

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 February 1980)